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AMERICA PROTESTS



PATRICK A. ALBRIGHT/U.S. Army

U.S. Army Airborne School students carry their primary and reserve parachutes back to the pack shed on Fort Benning, Ga., in April.

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Mark Esper and Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy are open to starting a conversation about changing the names of 10 of the service's posts named for prominent Confederate generals from the Civil War, Army officials said Monday.

McCarthy wants to have a "bi-partisan discussion" about the controversial issue, the official said. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, did not provide further details, including what sparked McCarthy's willingness to discuss the topic.

Esper also supports such a discussion about changing the installation names, officials

In reversal, Pentagon considers stripping names of Confederate generals from posts



U.S. Army

Fort Bragg is one of 10 posts named for Confederate generals.

said. Esper was McCarthy's predecessor as Army secretary.

It marks a substantial change in the Army's position on the naming of the 10 Army posts: Camp Beauregard and Fort Polk in Louisiana; Fort Benning and Fort Gordon in Georgia; Fort Bragg in North Carolina; Fort A.P. Hill, Fort Lee and Fort Pickett in Virginia; Fort Rucker in Alabama, and Fort Hood in Texas.

The installations were named primarily during the south's Jim Crow era in the 1910s and 1940s.

As recently as February, Army officials said the service had no intentions of addressing the topic of the naming of its

SEE CHANGE ON PAGE 10

Activists heartened, but hungry for more

By SUDHIN THANAWALA
Associated Press

ATLANTA — In the two weeks since George Floyd's killing, police departments have banned chokeholds, Confederate monuments have fallen and officers have been arrested and charged amid large global protests against violence by police and racism.

The moves are far short of the overhaul of police, prosecutors' offices, courts and other institutions that protesters seek. But some advocates and demonstrators say they are encouraged by the swiftness of the response to Floyd's death — incremental as it may be.

"Everywhere you look, you see something that gives you hope," said Frank James Matthews, 64, an activist in Alabama. "But we have no illusions because something that's embedded like racism is hard to kill."

Matthews spent years pushing for the removal of a Confederate monument in Birmingham near the site where four black girls died in a racist church bombing in 1963. The city took down the obelisk last week after protesters tried to remove it themselves during one of the many nationwide

SEE ACTIVISTS ON PAGE 11



■ George Floyd laid to rest in Houston
Page 11

BUSINESS/WEATHER

US officially entered a recession in February

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. economy entered a recession in February as the coronavirus struck the nation, a group of economists declared Monday, ending the longest expansion on record.

The economists said that employment, income and spending peaked in February and then fell sharply afterward as the viral outbreak shut down businesses across the country, marking the

start of the downturn after nearly 11 full years of economic growth.

A committee within the National Bureau of Economic Research, a private nonprofit group, determines when recessions begin and end. It defines a recession as "a decline in economic activity that lasts more than a few months."

For that reason, the NBER typically waits longer before determining that the economy is in a downturn. In the last recession, the committee did not declare that the economy was in recession

until December 2008, a year after it had actually begun. But in this case, the NBER said that the collapse in employment and incomes was so steep, it could make a determination much more quickly.

"The unprecedented magnitude of the decline in employment and production, and its broad reach across the entire economy, warrants the designation of this episode as a recession, even if it turns out to be briefer than earlier contractions," the NBER panel said.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		
Euro costs (June 10).....	\$1.10	Switzerland (Franc).....0.9505
Dollar buys (June 10).....	60.8629	Thailand (Baht).....31.32
British pound (June 10).....	\$1.23	Turkey (Lira).....6.7936
Japanese yen (June 10).....	107.00	(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)
South Korean won (June 10).....	1,168.00	
Commercial rates		
Bahrain (Dinar).....	0.3776	
British pound.....	\$1.2705	
Canada (Dollar).....	1.3435	
China (Yuan).....	7.0800	
Denmark (Krone).....	6.5709	
Egypt (Pound).....	16.3807	
Euro.....	\$1.1348/0.8812	
Hong Kong (Dollar).....	7.7501	
India (Rupee).....	303.85	
Israel (Shekel).....	3.4460	
Japan (Yen).....	107.71	
Kuwait (Dinar).....	0.3078	
Norway (Krone).....	9.2765	
Philippines (Peso).....	50.01	
Poland (Zloty).....	3.92	
Saudi Arabia (Riyal).....	3.7521	
Singapore (Dollar).....	1.3887	
South Korea (Won).....	1,198.68	

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate.....	3.25
Discount rate.....	0.25
Federal funds market rate.....	0.06
3-month bill.....	0.17
30-year bond.....	1.66

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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PACIFIC

S. Korea's calls to North go unanswered

By KIM GAMEL
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea refused to answer the phone Tuesday after vowing to sever communication lines with the South due to anger over the dispatch of anti-regime leaflets across the heavily fortified border that divides the peninsula.

South Korea's government, which has made improving relations with the North a key policy, said it will continue to press for peace.

The North said all lines would be cut after accusing the South Korean government of conniving with the "riff-raff" in hostile acts, while "trying to dodge heavy responsibility with nasty excuses."

"This has driven the inter-Korean relations into a catastrophe," the state-run Korean Central News Agency said in a report posted Tuesday.

Phone calls via military lines and a liaison office went unanswered Tuesday, according to officials at South Korea's unification and defense ministries.

The spat was another sign of rising tensions with the North since U.S.-led nuclear talks with the North broke down. Pyongyang also resumed missile tests amid the impasse and already has suspended most cooperation with the South.

However, military officials said the two Koreas usually call each other twice a day to maintain the communication channels. Tuesday was the first time the North Koreans didn't answer the routine calls since the hotlines were restored after a bilateral military agreement was reached in 2018, defense ministry spokeswoman Choi Hyun-soo told reporters.

The North's anger erupted after South Korean activists, including defectors from North Korea, floated leaflets criticizing



LEE JIN-MAN/AP

A visitor carrying a South Korean flag uses binoculars to view the northern side at the Imjingak Pavilion in Paju, South Korea, on Tuesday.

leader Kim Jong Un last week. The common activist practice has long provoked criticism from the North, where the regime maintains tight control over the population and is supposed to be revered as godlike.

Seoul has said it would push for laws banning the leafletting, but Pyongyang was not mollified.

Tuesday's statement came days after the leader's sister, Kim Yo Jong, also threatened to permanently close the liaison office in the border city of Kaesong and to nullify an inter-Korean military agreement aimed at easing tensions.

"We have reached a conclusion that there is no need to sit face to face with the South Korean authorities and there is no issue to

discuss with them, as they have only aroused our dismay," KCNA said.

It said the decision to sever the communication lines was made at a meeting with Kim Yong Chol, a former spy chief and senior ruling party official, and Kim Yo Jong.

"They discussed phased plans for the work against the enemy in order to make the betrayers and riff-raff pay for their crimes," KCNA said, adding the first step was an instruction "to completely cut off all the communication and liaison lines" at noon Tuesday.

"This measure is the first step of the determination to completely shut down all contact means with South Korea and get rid of unnecessary things," KCNA said.

The unification ministry, which oversees relations with the North, said communication lines should be maintained and promised to continue pressing for peace.

"While abiding by inter-Korean agreements, the government will make efforts for peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula," it said.

The two countries have several hotlines using phones and faxes, which South Korean officials have said are vital to preventing misunderstandings and conflict, arranging diplomatic talks, coordinating air and sea traffic and cooperating on humanitarian issues.

North Korea has cut off communications in the past as a pressure tactic amid animosities



A map of two Koreas showing the Demilitarized Zone is seen at the Imjingak Pavilion.

between the two countries, which remain technically at war after their 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

In 2016, the North Koreans stopped picking up after South Korea suspended cooperation in a joint industrial venture at Kaesong following a nuclear test.

However, the two sides resumed communication in 2018 during the peak of diplomacy as the two Koreas held three summits and Kim met with President Donald Trump, raising hopes for an agreement over its nuclear weapons program.

The North agreed to work toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, but talks stalled after Trump and Kim Jong Un failed to reach an agreement on easing sanctions during a February 2019 summit in Vietnam.

Earlier concerns were raised when the North reportedly didn't answer the phone at the liaison office on Monday morning, but somebody picked up later in the day.

North Korea also didn't respond to a request for an explanation about a cross-border shooting last month, but military officials said that was considered a non-routine call.

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Virus factors into Air Force's typhoon preparations in Tokyo

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The Air Force is ready to house families in separate emergency lodging at Yokota to prevent the spread of the coronavirus if they're evacuated during typhoon season in Tokyo, officials said Friday.

Preparations are underway at the home of U.S. Forces Japan in the Japanese capital with members of the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron trimming trees to protect power lines and clearing drains to stop flooding when the next big storm arrives.

Yokota-based weather officer 1st Lt. Gregg McCambley, 30, of Horsham, Pa., said the Pacific

Ocean appeared to be in a "neutral phase" but could enter a La Nina pattern later in the year.

A La Nina involves cooler than average temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific, causing more typhoons near the Philippines but likely fewer near Japan, he said.

In October, Typhoon Hagibis pummeled the Japanese capital with wind gusts as high as 104 mph and record-breaking torrential rain. U.S. military bases in and around the city reported minimal damage but 11 people assigned to Yokota, which got a record 15 inches of rain, were evacuated from their off-base homes due to flooding.

In August 2016, more than 300 families living at Yokota were dis-

placed after Typhoon Mindulle caused flooding that knocked out power and water service to their homes.

The Air Force has made sure it has enough space to house any evacuated families separately so that they don't spread the coronavirus, said Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Jamison, 37, of Aiken, S.C., superintendent of readiness and emergency management at Yokota's Civil Engineer Squadron.

In a typical year the western Pacific gets 20 to 25 storms that can range from tropical storms to super typhoons in Tokyo, McCambley said.

Ninety-six hours out from a typhoon's expected arrival, bases will announce Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness level 5,



THORON GOODOLAH/Stars and Stripes

Airman 1st Class Sebastian Yorr, of Houston, helps fill sandbags ahead of Typhoon Hagibis at Yokota Air Base, Japan, in October.

indicating that people should prepare food, water and emergency supplies, he said.

When sustained winds reach 58 mph or frequent gusts of 69 mph

they will declare level 1-E (emergency), meaning people should stay indoors.

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WAR/MIDEAST

Report: Mayor's killing in Afghanistan planned

Associated Press

OGDEN, Utah — An Afghan commando who fatally shot a Utah mayor serving in the National Guard in 2018 had planned the killing for weeks, according to an Army intelligence investigation.



Taylor

enough on signs of the radicalization of the commando who was being trained by Maj. Brent Taylor, according to the report that

was obtained through a public records request by the Standard-Examiner newspaper in Ogden.

Taylor, 39, had taken a year-long leave of absence as mayor of North Ogden by his deployment to Afghanistan.

Gen. Austin Scott Miller, commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, said in the report's summary that officials identified numerous missed opportunities to prevent Taylor's death on Nov. 3, 2018, the Standard-Examiner reported Monday.

A person who had interviewed the shooter failed to act on several signs of potential radicalization, including his expressed disdain for Americans, the report said.

"We could and should have done better. We will learn from

this tragedy," Miller said.

Miller agreed with most of the investigation's findings but disagreed with the conclusion that camp leadership had been lax on security.

Jennie Taylor, the major's wife, said she and other family members received a briefing about the investigation last fall. She told the newspaper that she is not bitter about missteps that may have played a part in her husband's death.

"People are not perfect and there were errors in the system," she said. "All of us can look at it as individuals and find room for improvement and find fault but not have bitterness. There's just not time in life for that bitterness."

The killing occurred while

Brent Taylor and the trainees were on a weekly training hike, the report said. They were making a final turn back to camp when Sgt. Asfar Khan of the Afghan special forces Taylor was helping train fired two to three shots, hitting Taylor in the back of the head, officials said.

A fellow U.S. Army member on the hike was shot in the back but fired back at Khan. Afghan commandos shot Khan as he tried to escape, killing him.

After the killing, investigators discovered a nine-minute video on Khan's phone outlining his plans to kill Taylor. The report said the 20-year-old from Kabul and other commandos thought a police chief had been killed by Americans with the help of Af-

ghan forces.

Khan said in the recording found on his phone that he had planned to kill Taylor as part of a plan to show he could be a leader of a movement to combat what they perceived as people trying to kill "all Muslims," the report said.

"This group will not accept defeat until the Americans are defeated ... and we will never surrender alive," the report said, citing the recording.

Insider attacks against U.S. troops by member of the Afghan security forces have been a recurring problem since 2012, prompting U.S. commanders to take stronger protective measures.

Iran appears to have built fake carrier

By JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — As tensions remain high between Iran and the U.S., the Islamic Republic appears to have constructed a new mock-up of an aircraft carrier off its southern coast for potential live-fire drills.

The faux foe, seen in satellite photographs obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press, resembles the Nimitz-class carriers that the U.S. Navy routinely sails into the Persian Gulf from the Strait of Hormuz, its narrow mouth where 20% of all the world's oil passes through.

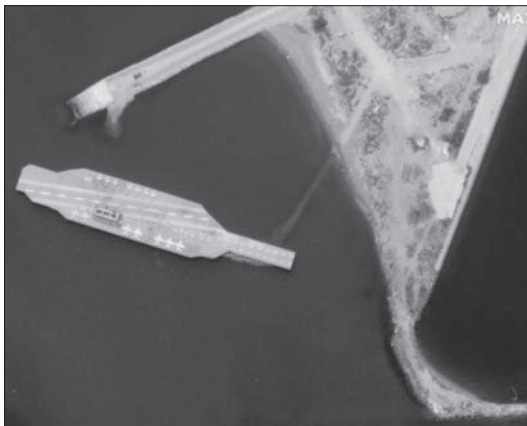
While not yet acknowledged by Iranian officials, the replica's appearance in the port city of Bandar Abbas suggests Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard is preparing an encore of a similar mock-sinking it conducted in 2015. It also comes as Iran announced Tuesday it will execute a man it accused of sharing details on the movements of the Guard's Gen. Qassem Soleimani, whom the U.S. killed in a January drone strike in Baghdad.

The replica carries 16 mock-ups of fighter jets on its deck, according to satellite photos taken by Maxar Technologies. The vessel appears to be 650 feet long and 160 feet wide. A real Nimitz is over 980 feet long and 245 feet wide.

The fake carrier sits just a short distance away from the parking lot in which the Guard unveiled over 100 new speedboats in May, the kind it routinely employs in tense encounters between Iranian sailors and the U.S. Navy. Those boats carry both mounted machine guns and missiles.

The mock-up strongly resembles a similar one used in February 2015 during a military exercise called "Great Prophet 9." During that drill, Iran swarmed the fake aircraft carrier with speedboats firing machine guns and rockets. Surface-to-air missiles later targeted and destroyed the fake carrier.

"American aircraft carriers are very big ammunition depots housing a lot of missiles, rockets, torpedoes and everything else," the Guard's then-navy chief, Adm. Ali Davadi, said on state television at the



MAXAR TECHNOLOGIES/AP

A fake aircraft carrier is seen off the coast of Bandar Abbas, Iran, in a June 7 satellite photo provided by Maxar Technologies. The mockup, seen in satellite photographs obtained by The Associated Press, resembles Nimitz-class carriers.

time.

That drill, however, came as Iran and world powers remained locked in negotiations over Tehran's nuclear program. Today, the deal born of those negotiations is in tatters. President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the accord in May 2018. Iran later responded by slowly abandoning nearly every tenant of the agreement, though it still allows U.N. inspectors access to its nuclear sites.

Last summer saw a series of attacks and incidents further ramp up tensions between Iran and the U.S. They reached a crescendo with the Jan. 3 strike near Baghdad International Airport that killed Soleimani, head of the Guard's expeditionary Quds, or Jerusalem, Force.

Also on Tuesday, judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Esmaili said Iranian citizen Mahmoud Mousavi Majd had been convicted in a Revolutionary Court, which handles security cases behind closed doors. Esmaili accused Majd of receiving money for allegedly sharing security information on the Guard and the Quds Force, as well as the "positions and movement routes" of Soleimani.

Esmaili did not say when Majd would be executed, other than that it would be "soon." He also stopped short of directly linking the information allegedly offered by Majd to Soleimani's death. Later Tuesday, the judiciary said Majd was detained in October 2018 and sentenced to death in September 2019, before Soleimani's killing.

Iran retaliated for Soleimani's killing with a ballistic missile strike Jan. 8 targeting U.S. forces in Iraq, an assault that left over 100 American troops with serious brain injuries. That same day, the Guard accidentally shot down a Ukrainian jetliner in Tehran, killing 176 people.

Iran's announcement of the looming execution shows how seriously they still take Soleimani's assassination. An exercise in getting a mock U.S. aircraft carrier could send that message as well, particularly if it involves a swarm attack of smaller vessels, which analysts believe Iran would employ if it did get into a shooting war with the U.S. Navy.

The U.S. Navy's Bahrain-based 5th Fleet, which patrols Mideast waters, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Iraqi army says rocket hit near airport

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A rocket landed on the periphery of Baghdad airport, the Iraqi military said Monday, without providing further details.

The army statement said the missile was launched from an area south of the airport, which includes a military base frequented by U.S. troops.

Security forces have initiated a search operation to uncover the perpetrators, the statement said. There were no reported casualties or damages. An Iraqi security official said the rocket struck close to the headquarters of the U.S.-led coalition.

The attack is the first to target the airport since May 6 when three katyusha rockets struck near its military sector. That attack did not cause any casualties.

The rockets had struck close to Iraqi forces at the military airport, another near Camp Cropper, once a U.S. detention facility, and the last near to where U.S. forces are stationed at the base.

The U.S. has accused Iran-backed militias of carrying out such attacks in the past. Several attacks targeted U.S. interests early in March, including three military bases known to house U.S. troops. The U.S.-led coalition has withdrawn from several bases across Iraq in a planned drawdown.

Separately, a U.S. military plane crashed into a concrete wall in Camp Taji, an Iraqi military base north of the capital, without causing fatalities, the U.S.-led coalition said. The crash of the C-130 late Monday was deemed an accident, spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition Myles Caggins told The Associated Press.

Caggins said the plane had overshot the runway and crashed into a wall resulting in damage to the aircraft and a small fire.

"Four service members on the plane sustained non-life-threatening injuries and are being treated at Camp Taji's medical facility," Caggins said in a statement after the incident. "Enemy activity is not suspected; the incident remains under investigation."

There were seven crew members and 26 passengers aboard the flight, Iraqi official said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

MILITARY

Children return to off-base schools in Japan

By JAMES BOLINGER
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — Parents working on the air station whose children attend off-base schools sent those students back to class Monday after Marine Corps officials eased coronavirus restrictions.

Dozens of students have been away from school since March when base commander Col. Lance Lewis ordered all personnel subject to the status of forces agreement to keep their children out of local schools.

Although the Defense Department runs its own school system overseas, some U.S. service members and Defense Department civilian employees choose to send their children to Japanese schools.

Lewis also asked Japanese workers on base to keep their children home.

"Our local area has had zero new cases for some time, which has allowed us, as a base, the

opportunity to reevaluate our COVID prevention measures," he said in an update Sunday on the base's official Facebook page, authorizing the change. COVID-19 is the respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus.

The return to school coincided with the relaxing of many other restrictions at MCAS Iwakuni. Personnel may now go off base for take-out food, medical or veterinary appointments and to return to their off-base jobs.

Elementary and junior high schools near MCAS Iwakuni in Yamaguchi prefecture in western Japan reopened May 7. Schools in Japan closed due to coronavirus concerns in early March, and the current Japanese school year began in April.

When the restrictions began, the base worked with the Iwakuni school board to ensure that children who stayed home from school at Lewis' request were not penalized.

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CARLOS CRUZ/U.S. Marine Corps

American students visit a classroom at Nishiki Seiryu Elementary School near Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, in 2015.

Fort Bragg paratrooper's death being investigated as homicide

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

The death of a Fort Bragg, N.C., paratrooper who was reported missing last month and whose remains were discovered a week later is now a homicide investigation, Army officials said Monday.

Partial remains found May 29 near Cape Lookout National Seashore, N.C., were confirmed to be those of Spc. Enrique Roman-Martinez, 21, according to a news release Monday from Army Criminal Investigation Command, known as CID. A positive identification was made using the soldier's dental records.

Investigators ruled his death a homicide and are offering up to \$15,000 to anyone with information leading to an arrest and conviction, according to CID.

The remains washed up on Shackleford Banks Island, part of the Cape Lookout National Seashore, an area where the prevailing tides have washed ashore remains in years past, CID said.

Roman-Martinez was a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division who was last seen May 22 at a campsite near mile marker 46 on South Core Banks, one of the islands that make up Cape Lookout National Seashore. Roman-Martinez's friends reported him missing the following evening.



U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command

According to the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, Spc. Enrique Roman-Martinez, 21, was last seen on May 22 at a campsite on South Core Banks, one of the islands that make up Cape Lookout National Seashore.

His phone and wallet were found at the campsite and he was last seen wearing blue shorts and no shirt, according to the release. No additional information was released Monday with officials citing the ongoing investigation.

Guam-based airman found dead in barracks worked for Andersen's logistics squadron

Stars and Stripes

An airman found dead last week on Guam worked with the 36th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Andersen Air Force Base, the 36th Wing announced Tuesday.

Airman 1st Class Christopher "Harrison" Fay was discovered unresponsive in his quarters on base just before 3:30 p.m. June 3,

the statement said.

His age and hometown were not immediately available Tuesday.

"We are grieving the loss of our Wingman," 36th Wing commander Brig. Gen. Gentry Boswell said in the statement. "Losing a member of our team is one of the most difficult things we face. We will stand strong and face this together."

An investigation into the cause of Fay's death is ongoing. The 36th Wing said more information would be released "as it becomes available."

"At this time, we are focused on caring for the family, friends and all of the Wingmen touched by Harrison in his time with us," Boswell said in the statement.

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Second JBLM soldier faces murder charge

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

A second Joint Base Lewis-McChord soldier arrested in April for the death of an Army veteran now faces a murder charge, a Washington state prosecutor said Monday during a court hearing.

Pvt. Raylin D. James, 20, received the new charge of first-degree murder in Kittitas County Superior Court, a charge that Pvt. Joshua Gerald, 20, pleaded

not guilty to last month. Both soldiers were arrested in April in the death of former Army Pvt. Leroy Joseph Scott III, 20, whose body was found April 25 off a rural road in Kittitas County, according to the county sheriff's office.

Craig Juris, the state prosecutor in the cases, asked a judge Monday during a pretrial hearing to review the new charges and approve them. James was originally charged with of rendering criminal assistance in the first degree and released on bail in May.

Juris said new information provided Thursday by the sheriff's office led prosecutors to increase the charges against James. However, the new information was not discussed during the court hearing.

Juris also requested Monday that James' bail be increased

to \$1.5 million from its original \$15,000. His bail now matches Gerald's amount. Gerald has remained in Kittitas County Corrections Center since his arrest. James was living at Lewis-McChord, located about 130 miles west of Kittitas County, and under the supervision of a captain, said Guy Zimmerman, the attorney for James.

Jail records do not yet show whether James was returned to the facility in light of the new charge.

Both soldiers are assigned to the 555th Engineer Brigade, though Juris told the judge that the Army is in the process of discharging the men. Base officials declined to comment on this, citing privacy concerns.

James of Shreveport, La., and Gerald of Olanita, S.C., attended a birthday party for Scott in Ellensburg on April 24, according to court documents. Scott was a member of their brigade until December when he was discharged from the Army. On April 25, Scott's badly beaten body was found 10 miles outside of town, according to court records.

Joint Base Lewis-McChord is located near Tacoma and has about 38,000 active-duty personnel under the command of I Corps, which also oversees activities in the Pacific, Hawaii, Alaska and Japan. Units stationed at the base include the 7th Infantry Division, 1st Special Forces Group and the 2nd Battalion of the 75th Ranger Regiment.

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Scott

MILITARY

Launch system fails on USS Ford during testing

By TONY CAPACCIO
Bloomberg News

The U.S. Navy's newest aircraft carrier experienced a failure of its electromagnetic launch system last week in the latest sign that the \$13.2 billion vessel hasn't fully resolved hurdles tied to its cutting-edge technology as it undergoes at-sea testing.

The system on the USS Gerald R. Ford — which propels planes off the deck and into the sky — “went down” June 2 just before a scheduled aircraft launch, the Navy said in a statement published late Sunday. The failure of the system, built by General Atomics, “curtailed flight operations to some extent,” according to the statement.

No root cause for the breakdown has been found, according to an internal Navy document. After several days, the Navy said, it found a workaround to the catapult problem and jets were able to resume flight operations Sunday.

“The crew supported by a team of experts developed an alternate method to launch the air wing off yesterday,” Capt. Danny Hernandez, a Navy spokesman, said in a statement. “Any corrective actions will be key to ensuring that when Ford enters the fleet after operational testing” it’s ready to support operations, he added.

Reliability problems with the catapult system have been among previously identified, high-profile technology issues confronting the Ford, the first of three carriers

in a new class.

The earlier problems attracted President Donald Trump’s attention. Comparing the catapult system to an older, steam-driven version on previous ships, Trump said in 2018 that “steam is very reliable, and the electromagnetic — I mean, unfortunately, you have to be Albert Einstein to really work it properly.”

The latest breakdown didn’t pose a “safety-of-flight risk” because of where and when in the system it took place, the Navy document said. It “occurred during a manual reset” of the “power handling” system, which is in accordance with current procedures, it added.

“The Navy is reviewing those procedures and any impacts on the system” and “until further notice, the ship’s crew will not be using the manual reset,” according to the document.

In an annual report in January, Pentagon testers continued to report “deficiencies and limitations” with the ship’s radar, electronic warfare surveillance system and a ship-to-ship communications data network.

Those issues followed the discovery that none of the 11 elevators needed to bring weapons up to the Ford’s deck were installed when the ship was delivered in May 2017 — about 32 months later than planned. The Navy says it’s making steady progress installing them.

The ship — built by Huntington Ingalls



RYAN LITZENBERGER/U.S. Navy

Capt. Richard C. McCormack, USS Gerald R. Ford’s commanding officer, takes off in an F/A-18E Super Hornet off of Ford’s flight deck. The launch system on the carrier experienced a failure during at-sea testing.

Industries Inc. — was performing post-delivery sea trials with an air wing when the launch system went down. Before that, the ship had conducted 324 catapult launches and arrested landings with the air wing, according to the Navy.

The Ford has completed more than 3,000 launches and recoveries using the new system along with the ship’s Advanced Arresting Gear for catching jets as they land

on its deck. “While quite an achievement, it is an insufficient number of events from which to draw conclusions with respect to reliability,” the Navy document said.

The Government Accountability Office, in its latest program assessment released last week, said that “despite maturing its critical technologies,” the Navy “is still struggling to demonstrate the reliability” of the launch and arresting gear systems.

Coast Guard Academy faulted on racial incidents response

By PAT EATON-ROBB
Associated Press

The U.S. Coast Guard Academy failed to properly address complaints of racial harassment, including the use of racial slurs by cadets, according to the Department of Homeland Security’s inspector general.

The academy in New London, Conn., said Monday it accepts the recommendations of the inspector general’s report and is committed to “pursuing improvements to policies and procedures that govern the response and investigation of all allegations of harassment and misconduct.”

The complaints investigated by the Inspector General’s Office included episodes in which cadets used racial epithets, posed with a Confederate flag and watched and laughed at a blackface video

Of 16 allegations of race-based harassment at the academy between 2013 and 2018 ... the academy failed to properly investigate or handle of 11 of them.

Inspector general report

in a common area.

Of 16 allegations of race-based harassment at the academy between 2013 and 2018 identified by the inspector general, the academy failed to properly investigate or handle 11 of them, the report said.

The report, dated June 3, also found that harassing behaviors persist at the academy and that cadets are under-reporting instances of harassment in part because of “concerns about nega-

tive consequences for reporting allegations.”

The review began in June 2018 after several cadets raised concerns about racist jokes, disparities in discipline and the administration’s handling of what some saw as racial hostility.

The Coast Guard Academy said it has agreed to implement changes including mandatory training for academy personnel and cadets involved in instances of harassment or hate, mandatory

training for cadets on how to recognize harassing behavior, and investigating and documenting any harassment involving race or ethnicity.

“The Coast Guard, and its academy, are steadfast and enduring in its commitment to build an inclusive environment, free of harassment, and this extends to the highest levels of our service,” the academy said in a statement.

One of the nation’s smallest service academies, the Coast Guard Academy is overseen by Homeland Security, unlike others such as the U.S. Military Academy and the Naval Academy, which are run by the Defense Department. It enrolls over 1,000 cadets, who attend the school tuition-free and graduate as officers with a Bachelor of Science degree and a requirement to spend five years in the service.

The incidents documented in the report included a third-year cadet repeatedly using the N-word toward a first-year cadet in April 2016 during a conversation, even after the first-year cadet tried to walk away. The third-year cadet was not disciplined or ordered to participate in respect remediation, according to the report, and it was not noted on his official conduct record.

A December 2018 report by the inspector general’s office substantiated allegations that a lieutenant commander at the academy was retaliated against after making discrimination and harassment complaints against her superiors. The Coast Guard said it implemented several changes after that report, including additional training for supervisors and managers on discrimination, harassment and bullying policies.

F-35A’s landing gear collapses after landing at Utah base

By CAITLIN KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — An F-35A Lightning II aircraft had its landing gear collapse after it landed Monday at Hill Air Force Base in Utah, according to a base statement.

The aircraft, assigned to the 388th

Fighter Wing at the base, had just finished a routine training flight when it landed, said Donovan Potter, a spokesman for the base.

The pilot was able to get out of the aircraft and is undergoing a routine medical evaluation. The runway where the incident happened is closed and aircraft that were still flying had to be diverted to other air-

ports, according to the statement. Training flights have been stopped until the runway reopens.

The incident will be investigated by a formal safety review board, Potter said.

Monday’s incident comes after two other Air Force fighter jet crashes that occurred in May at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. On May 15, an F-22 Raptor crashed at

the training range several miles from the base. On May 19, another F-35A Lightning II crashed while landing. Both pilots were able to eject from their aircraft. Both of those incidents are also being investigated.

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MILITARY

Vietnam refugee, now an Army general, takes over in Djibouti

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

The new leader of the United States military mission in East Africa is an Army general who, in his youth, spent three years in Vietnam's jungles evading Communist forces with his brothers after the fall of Saigon in 1975, before escaping the country on a fishing boat.

Believed to be the first Vietnamese "boat person" to rise to the rank of general in the U.S. military, Maj. Gen. Lapthe C. Flora took command of Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa from Maj. Gen. Michael D. Turello in a small, socially distanced ceremony at Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti on Monday.

"That is a tough man sitting there right now," U.S. Africa Command boss Gen. Stephen J. Townsend, who presided over the event, said of Flora, who he said is only the second Vietnam native to become an Army general.

After arriving in the U.S. as a teenage refugee with a fifth-grade education, Flora went on to graduate from the Virginia Military Institute before joining

the Army. In his civilian career, the National Guard general is an engineer with several patents on night vision goggles.

"I'm very grateful for what this country has done for me," he told Stars and Stripes in an interview early last year.

On Monday, Flora challenged CJTF-HOA to prepare for changes to its mission of countering violent extremists and building up partner forces, while looking for ways to improve support to U.S. forces.

He also acknowledged the frustrations of restrictions in place due to the coronavirus, which has led to the closure or reduced availability of amenities on Camp Lemonnier, but called for continued vigilance.

"Take care of yourselves and each other," he said. "Please bear with us a little longer as we find a way ahead."

The virus continues to spread throughout Djibouti, where aggressive testing is identifying an average of about 200 positive cases a day, the base commander, Navy Capt. Kenneth Crowe, told contractors in a memo Monday. Camp Lemonnier has been

locked down for weeks and off-base personnel sequestered on the compound to prevent the disease from spreading.

Townsend praised Turello's leadership during the pandemic and throughout his yearlong tenure in Djibouti.

A former Marine and Special Forces veteran, Turello could be counted on for a "cool head, calm advice, clear decisions," he said, "especially during the crisis response" to an al-Shabab attack in September at Baledogle Military Airfield in Somalia that left one American injured.

Turello was away in January when an al-Shabab attack on Manda Bay Airfield in Kenya killed an American soldier and two DOD contractors, Townsend said, but he added that the command's response in Turello's absence was also a testament to his leadership.

AFRICOM had sent a quick-reaction force from Djibouti to Kenya in the wake of the attack. Townsend later sent Turello as part of a contingent to investigate the incident, which had left five U.S. aircraft destroyed and one damaged, along with six



ASHLEY NICOLE TAYLOR/U.S. Air Force

U.S. Army Gen. Stephen J. Townsend, commander of U.S. Africa Command, right, presides over the socially distanced change of command ceremony for Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, which will now be run by Maj. Gen. Lapthe C. Flora, left, on Monday at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti.

contractor-operated aircraft also damaged.

The outgoing commander will go on to serve as special adviser to the director of the National Guard Bureau.

Flora's most recent position was deputy commander of U.S. Army Africa, which Townsend said had

prepared him with knowledge of the continent and the mission.

"Lapthe, welcome to the AFRICOM team," he said. "I can promise you one thing, you will not be bored."

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STARS AND STRIPES.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Army grants more freedom to soldiers in Japan

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The Army has eased its coronavirus restrictions in Japan, allowing soldiers and others attached to its posts to travel and patronize off-base restaurants in a limited area.

Service members stationed at Camp Zama, Sagami General Depot and Yokohama North Dock may now travel within most of Kanagawa prefecture and part of Tokyo prefecture, U.S. Army Japan commander Maj. Gen. Viet Luong said in a Monday update to coronavirus rules.

"I'm optimistic that we have plateaued and will continue to improve, but the threat is still out there," he told troops during a virtual town hall meeting Tuesday afternoon. "You've got to continue to do your part ... you've got to assess every situation. People are still dying from this disease."

Nearby city centers remain off limits because "Tokyo and Yokohama are still problematic in terms of infections," Luong said. However, soldiers can engage in off-base leisure activities within the expanded area if they practice social distancing, said U.S. Army Japan spokesman Kevin Krejcarek. The update gives troops freedom to visit numerous beaches, forests, lakes and other attractions to the west of the Japanese capital.

Soldiers stationed at non-Army

installations must follow travel restrictions established by those commands.

At nearby Yokota Air Base, for example, all personnel, including family members and Defense Department civilians, are forbidden from patronizing off-base, sit-down restaurants or traveling beyond the local area around the facility other than trips to the nearby Tama Hills Recreation Area.

For personnel at Army posts, "bars and social clubs remain off limits," Luong said in his order. "Other local businesses and restaurants may be patronized provided personnel adhere to the social distancing and hygiene protocols."

Service members may conduct outdoor physical training in groups of up to five people, he said.

Troops can host parties and social gatherings of up to four people in their barracks rooms. Those living in family housing or off-post government-funded housing may congregate in groups of up to 10 people or as two families.

"For example, a family of six may gather with a family of seven if social distancing and hygiene protocols are observed," he said.

People who host social gatherings must keep a log of guests who enter their home or yard for more than 10 minutes.

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More restrictions eased around Ramstein base

By Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — More of the restrictions introduced in Rheinland-Pfalz two-and-a-half months ago to combat the coronavirus will be relaxed starting Wednesday, officials said.

Restaurants and bars will be allowed to remain open until midnight, a two-hour increase, and reservations will no longer be required to eat out, a decree issued by the state government in Mainz said.

But all other restrictions, including wearing protective masks, social distancing and a ban on guests sitting at a bar, will remain in force, the decree said. Nightclubs and brothels will remain closed, it said.

Children younger than six years of age don't have to wear masks, the decree said.

Rheinland-Pfalz is home to

about 50,000 U.S. personnel and family members, as well as Ramstein Air Base and several Army installations.

Each of Germany's 16 federal states has its own rules regulating restaurants, hotels, bars, and other hospitality establishments. Most states have gradually relaxed the strict measures implemented at the height of the pandemic in Germany in March.

Separately, U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz announced Monday the reopening of pedestrian gates at Baumholder — those at the central issue facility/quartermaster, the health clinic and Smith Barracks — and at Kaiserslautern's Daenner, Kleber and Panzer Kasernes. The garrison also said on its Facebook page that the pedestrian gate at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center will reopen June 15, along with all vehicle access points.

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Lithuanian Navy

A sailor aboard the Lithuanian navy ship LNS Skalis observes NATO allies and partner nation ships during Baltic Operations 2020.

No amphibious landings set for Baltic exercise because of virus

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — At least 3,000 troops are taking part this week in one of the U.S. Navy's largest maritime drills in the Baltic Sea, but for the first time Marines will not be conducting amphibious landings during the exercise because of coronavirus concerns.

"We are taking precautions to ensure our crews and partners stay healthy and operational," said the U.S. 6th Fleet's Vice Adm. Lisa Franchetti, as the Baltic Operations exercise got underway Monday. "Accordingly, for the first time in its history, BALTOPS 2020 will be held entirely at sea."

Normally, Marines arriving by landing craft for amphibious assault drills in places like Lithuania are a highlight of the exercise, which takes place in the vicinity of the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad.

This year's iteration of the U.S.-led BALTOPS involves 19 countries combining aircraft and warships that practice skills such as air defense, anti-submarine warfare and mine countermeasures.

Franchetti, in a call with reporters, said it was "especially critical" that militaries continue to train "even in the face of the coronavirus pandemic."

"This exercise will flex maritime and air forces to enhance our combined and joint capabilities, and our ability to work together in the challenging environment of the Baltic Sea," she said. "No single nation can address today's challenges alone."



DAMON GROSVENOR/U.S. Navy

Petty Officer 1st Class Ronald Cook, assigned to the Dragon Whales of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 28, closes the side door of an MH-60 Seahawk helicopter after takeoff from the USS Mount Whitney in the Baltic Sea on June 7.

For the military, the coronavirus pandemic has complicated large exercises across the force. Numerous multinational exercises were canceled or curtailed as infections increased sharply in March around Europe.

Now, as the number of new cases slows, militaries in Europe are resuming major war games. Last week, the U.S. Army and Poland started their first big exercise since the outbreak, Agile Spirit, which includes about 6,000 soldiers.

BALTOPS for the first time is being commanded from Lisbon, Portugal, where NATO has a maritime headquarters. The aim is to test the Lisbon command center's ability to co-

ordinate with 6th Fleet headquarters in Naples, Italy, NATO operation centers and forces in the Baltic Sea.

While amphibious forces were not included this year, that's not an entirely bad thing, said Rear Adm. Guy Robinson of the U.K. Royal Navy and deputy commander for Naval and Striking Support Forces at NATO.

"This allows us to put a focus on different aspects of naval warfare, train different disciplines and focus in different areas," he said.

The exercise in the Baltics is scheduled to continue until June 16.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

Several federal offices closed for pandemic are slowly reopening

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER
Associated Press

New regional surges in coronavirus cases forced the Environmental Protection Agency to put some of the earliest planned returns of federal employees to their offices on hold, while the first volunteers at a few other federal agencies are quietly going back to their desks.

The Trump administration's guidance, called "Opening up America Again," lays out specific conditions for calling workers back, like 14 straight days of downward-trending cases in an area. But there have been complaints that the administration is moving too quickly.

On Monday, small numbers of Energy Department headquarters staff were returning to offices in Washington, D.C., and Germantown, Tenn., spokeswoman Jessica Szymanski said.

Less than 4% of the agency's 7,000 federal and contractor workers were expected to return to work in this first phase of the administration's plans, Szymanski said. This initial phase allows for staffers to voluntarily return

to their offices.

The State Department said Monday that it expects to start its in-office restaffing on June 15, also with voluntary returns of employees. The Agriculture Department brought back all political appointees in the Washington area at large on June 1.

Many federal workers, like Americans in general and people around the world, have worked from home since mid-March as the coronavirus spread. Essential federal employees stayed in the field, and the IRS early on become one of the first agencies to ask some workers to come back to offices to handle taxes and taxpayers.

President Donald Trump earlier publicly urged reopening of some federal sites, including national parks, as a sign of "our significant progress against the invisible enemy" of coronavirus. That was in late April, as U.S. coronavirus deaths were climbing on their way past 100,000.

The EPA had some regional offices on track for the start of the phased return of federal employees. Agency officials put that on abrupt hold for Boston and Dallas

regional offices Friday, citing increases in coronavirus infections in those cities, according to agency documents obtained by The Associated Press.

Other regional EPA offices in Seattle, Atlanta, Denver and suburban Kansas City are in line to start mandatory returns of workers in those regions by early July, union officials for the agency's workers said.

The EPA would not immediately comment on that alleged timeline, or answer questions on when and where it would start bringing back employees — or why it would not make that information public.

EPA spokeswoman Angela Hackell said in an email that the reopenings "will take a measured and deliberate approach that ensures our employees' health and safety."

A government watchdog group, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, on Monday accused the agency of moving forward with reopening offices in some cities even though all the set conditions, such as the availability of testing for the coronavirus, hadn't been met.



KATHY WILLIAMS/AP

Preparing for reopening

Manager Angel Ramos arranges shoes on a display Monday in Top Shoes in the Sunset Park neighborhood of Brooklyn, N.Y. Retail stores were allowed to reopen, with some restrictions, like curbside pickup on orders and required face coverings, as part of the state's phase one reopening plan.

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MILITARY

Change: DOD shift comes as US sees rallies against racism

FROM FRONT PAGE

installations. A service spokesperson said some posts were named for Confederate generals in "the spirit of reconciliation" and not in "support for any particular cause or ideology."

"The Army has a tradition of naming installations and streets after historical figures of military significance, including former Union and Confederate general officers," an Army spokesperson said in a statement at that time.

The apparent change in thinking, first reported Monday by Politico, comes as demonstrators across the United States have held protests to systemic racism and police brutality. Uprisings in all 50 states and in Washington, D.C., were sparked by the May 25 death of a handcuffed black man, George Floyd, by a Minneapolis police officer, who has since been fired and charged with second-degree murder.

A second Army official on Monday pointed to those events and a June 3 memorandum issued by McCarthy, Gen. James McConville, the service chief of staff,

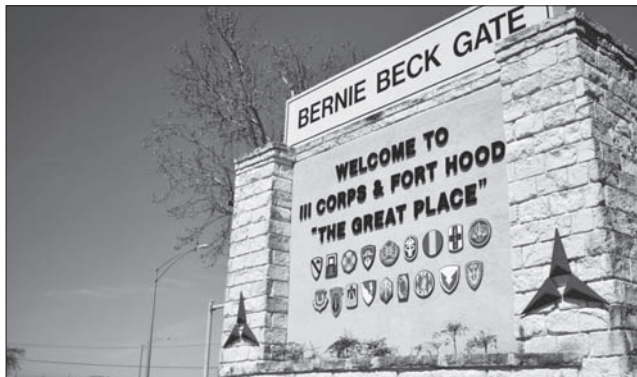
and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston, its top enlisted soldier, as driving the willingness to discuss installation names. In the memo, the leaders acknowledge racism exists in the Army and pledged to listen to soldiers about those issues.

"Over the past week, the country has suffered an explosion of frustration over the racial divisions that still plague us as Americans. And because your Army is a reflection of American society, those divisions live in the Army as well," they wrote. "We feel the frustration and anger."

The change in stance toward the Army's long-held installation names also comes as the Marine Corps implements a ban on the Confederate battle flag on its bases.

"This symbol has shown it has the power to inflame feelings of division," Gen. David Berger, the Marine commandant, wrote in an April letter to Marines. "I cannot have that division inside our Corps."

Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., sent a letter Monday to McCarthy



U.S. Army

A sign at one of the gates to Fort Hood, Texas, which was named after Confederate Gen. John Bell Hood.

asking him to follow the Marine Corps' lead in banning Confederate memorabilia on Army installations. She sent similar letters to the leaders of the military's other services.

Duckworth, a former Army pilot and member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, asked the Army's top civilian to prohibit the display of the Confederate battle flag and "eliminate any honors that could reasonably be interpreted as commemorating or celebrating any enemy force, foreign or domestic, that engaged

in armed conflict against the U.S. armed forces and sought to destroy the United States of America," a reference to the names of the 10 posts.

"Honoring the 'lost cause' of those who waged war against the United States of America, or defending the right of an individual state to allow its residents to own, sell and kill fellow Americans as property, has no place in our nation, especially the U.S. armed forces which waged a deadly war to eliminate the barbaric practice of slavery," she wrote.

The Army does not need lawmaker input to change post names.

According to a 2006 Army regulation, the service can change the names of its installations without input from Congress or other federal authorities.

Army Regulation 1-33 names the assistant secretary of the Army for manpower and reserve affairs as the official responsible for the naming of Army installations.

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Sergeant urges tough action against worker over comments

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A Ramstein commissary employee's comments are being investigated by store management after an Army sergeant overheard jokes he made about George Floyd's death and reported him.

"I can't breathe, I can't breathe," Andersa Peoples said she heard the employee say to someone behind the glass customer service window at the front of the store June 5, as she waited in line to check out.

"My first reaction was, 'What's going on?' I'm a medical professional. Do I need to help somebody? Because I'm obligated to do so," Peoples said.

Then, she heard the employee laugh and say, "Put your knee on my neck," said Peoples, a respiratory technician at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

Video footage captured Floyd, an African American, repeatedly saying "I can't breathe" as a white Minneapolis police of-

ficer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes. Floyd's death May 25 has sparked worldwide protests against racial injustice and police brutality.

The commissary employee appeared to be joking, said Peoples, who is black, but his words were loud enough to be heard by her and other customers, and what he said was deeply offensive and hurtful.

"Somebody lost their life. Black, white or indifferent — it's not a joking matter," she said. Her first inclination was to "just let it go," she said.

But "it just didn't sit right with me," so she reported the incident to management.

"We take this very seriously and we are investigating the matter," Kevin Kegler, the Ramstein commissary store director, told Stars and Stripes. "We have zero tolerance for accounts of derogatory statements. Whether it's a joke or not, we do not take this lightly whatsoever."

Peoples, 34, posted about the incident on her Facebook page, and a friend reposted it

to the Ramstein/KMC Spouses page. There, Peoples was verbally attacked and her account of what happened was questioned.

Some thought the story was far-fetched, that "this couldn't happen on a military post," Peoples said.

"This sounds like a blatant lie, you should be ashamed of yourself," someone else commented.

Others questioned Peoples' credibility because she referred to the employee as a bagger in her original post, she said — but no baggers were working at the commissary at the time due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"The individual was grabbing carts and baskets. In my mind, he was a bagger; he wasn't a cashier, he wasn't behind the register," Peoples clarified.

"I was accused of being a troll," she said. "I was called so many things, it was unbelievable."

The moderators of the Ramstein/KMC Spouses page removed the post but later put it back up, with an apology, after Peoples

wrote in an updated Facebook post that commissary managers said the employee had admitted making the comments and apologized, and another person corroborated Peoples' version of events.

"I was at the commissary when it happened. I heard him say it. I made a comment to my husband that somebody was about to go down," that person wrote on the spouses' page.

Resolving the incident is at "the top of our priority list," Kegler said, adding that an investigation has been launched. "This is so heart-breaking for us, as a community, as a commissary," he said. "I feel very confident it was an isolated incident."

But a number of people, and even religious groups, have contacted the commissary demanding tough action be taken against the employee, Kegler said.

"He needs to be relieved of his duties. It's just not acceptable," Peoples said.

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More than 8,500 airmen volunteer to move over to Space Force

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

More than 8,500 active-duty airmen are interested in moving over to the U.S. Space Force, the service said Tuesday.

May was the first month applications to transfer into the military's newest branch were accepted from current service members. The thousands of ap-

plications come from a mix of officers and enlisted airmen from within 13 career fields.

"I am incredibly proud of the men and women who made the bold decision to volunteer to join the U.S. Space Force and defend the ultimate high ground," said Gen. Jay Raymond, chief of space operations, in a statement.

Calling it "a critical time for space," Raymond said airmen

"will build the Space Force necessary to compete, deter, and win as required to meet the needs of the National Defense Strategy."

Of those who volunteered, about 6,000 will be selected for transfer, the service said in a statement.

Applications are being reviewed and volunteers will receive notification in July explaining the next steps in the process, service officials said.

Airmen already in space-related jobs will transfer first, starting in September. More general career fields will start transferring in February.

About 16,000 military and civilians from the former U.S. Air Force Space Command are now assigned to Space Force. The upcoming process will officially commission or enlist military members into the force.

Airmen in space career fields who decline to transfer into the Space Force will receive assistance in examining other options, to include applying for retraining into nonspace jobs in the Air Force, going to the reserve components or applying for separation or retirement, if eligible.

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NATION



Eric Gay/AP

Texas Southern University police salute as the casket carrying George Floyd's body is carried by pallbearers into his funeral service at The Fountain of Praise Church on Tuesday in Houston.

Hundreds mourn man whose death sparked mass protests

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Hundreds of mourners packed a Houston church Tuesday for the funeral of George Floyd, capping six days of mourning for the black man whose death has led to a global reckoning over police brutality and racial injustice.

Floyd, 46, was to be laid to rest next to his mother in the suburb of Pearland. He called out for her as a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee on his neck May 25. Cellphone video of the encounter ignited protests and scattered violence in cities across the U.S. and around the world.

While the service was private, at least 50 people gathered outside the Fountain of Praise church to pay their respects. Some held signs with messages including "Black Lives Matter" and "Togetherness because of George Floyd."

"There's a real big change going on and everybody, especially black, right now should be a part of that," said Kersey Biagase, who traveled more than three hours from Port Barre, La., with his girlfriend, Brandi Pickney.

The couple were matching T-shirts she designed, printed with Floyd's name and "I Can't Breathe," the words he uttered before his death.

Several police officers from Texas Southern University stood guard at the sanctuary entrance, wearing face masks printed with Floyd's dying words. The historically black school is next to the Houston housing project where Floyd grew up.

Mourners included Reps. Sheila Jackson Lee and Al Green, both Democrats from the Houston

area, and the city's police chief, Art Acevedo, filed in. Nearly all the pews were full, with relatively little space between people.

"So much for social distancing today," the Rev. Remus Wright told mourners, gently but firmly instructing those attending to don face masks because of the coronavirus.

Dozens of Floyd's family members, most dressed in white, were led into the sanctuary by the Rev. Al Sharpton, the civil rights activist. They were joined by rapper Trae tha Truth, who helped organize a march last week in Houston attended by 60,000 people.

Floyd "often spoke about being world famous one day and he has managed to make that happen in his death," the funeral program said.

The funeral came a day after about 6,000 people attended a public memorial, also in Houston, waiting for hours under a baking sun to pay their respects to Floyd, whose body lay in an open gold-colored casket.

"I've been stopped by police. I understand the situation. I can only imagine," said 39-year-old Daniel Osarobo, a Houston resident and immigrant from Nigeria who works as an engineer in the oil and gas industry. "What if it was me? What if it was my brother? What if it was my sister? What if it was my son?"

Over the past six days, memorials for Floyd were also held in Minneapolis, where he lived in recent years, and Raeford, N.C., near where he was born.

The services have drawn the families of other black victims whose names have become part

of the debate over race and justice — among them, Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Ahmaud Arbery and Trayvon Martin.

Floyd's death drew new attention to the treatment of African Americans in the U.S. by police and the criminal justice system.

In the past two weeks, sweeping and previously unthinkable things have taken place: Confederate statues have been toppled, and many cities are debating overhauling, dismantling or cutting funding for police departments. Authorities in some places have barred police from using chokeholds or are otherwise rethinking policies on the use of force.

Floyd, a bouncer who had lost his job because of the coronavirus outbreak, was seized by police after being accused of passing a counterfeit \$20 bill at a convenience store. He was pinned to the pavement for what prosecutors say was 8 minutes, 46 seconds — a number that has since become a rallying cry among protesters.

Four Minneapolis officers were arrested in his death: Derek Chauvin, 44, was charged with second-degree murder. J. Alexander Kueng, Thomas Lane and Tou Thao were charged with aiding and abetting. All four could get up to 40 years in prison.

Some of the mostly peaceful demonstrations that erupted after Floyd's death were marked by bursts of arson, assaults, vandalism and smash-and-grab raids on businesses, with more than 10,000 people arrested. But protests in recent days have been overwhelmingly peaceful.

Activists: 'They're at least talking about making the change,' civil rights icon says

FROM FRONT PAGE

demonstrations over Floyd's killing by police in Minneapolis.

In Virginia, Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam last week ordered the removal of an iconic statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee in Richmond, the former capital of the Confederacy. A judge on Monday halted the move for 10 days, but a spokeswoman for the governor said he remained committed to removing the "divisive symbol."

At a memorial for Floyd on Monday in Houston, Bracy Burnett said it was hard to tell if the changes that have taken place since Floyd's death will last.

"It's a start, but you can't expect an appreciation of 400 years to be eliminated in a few months, a few years," Burnett, 66, said.

Tancey Houston Rogers, 49, said she's seen more progress in addressing racism and police brutality in the last two weeks than she's seen in the past.

"Now, we've got to take it forward," she said.

Floyd died May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for several minutes even after Floyd stopped responding. Prosecutors have charged that officer, Derek Chauvin, with second-degree murder. Three other officers at the scene were charged with aiding and abetting.

Minneapolis has since banned chokeholds, and a majority of the City Council has vowed to dismantle the city's 800-member police agency. Police in Denver have also banned the use of chokeholds and required officers who intentionally point their gun at someone to notify a supervisor and file a report.

Police officers have also faced charges for violent conduct during protests.

Savano Wilkerson said he worries about a backlash on reform if national attention shifts away from Floyd's case. He's also concerned about convictions against

the officers charged in Floyd's death.

"It's not really a win yet because they could easily get off," the 22-year-old resident of West Palm Beach, Fla., said during a phone interview on Monday.

The recent protests are the country's most significant demonstrations in a half-century — rivaling those during the civil rights and Vietnam War eras.

During the push for civil rights in the 1960s, activists also won some quick concessions from authorities, said Ashley Howard, an assistant professor of history and African American studies at the University of Iowa.

"If you want to take the cynical view, cities want to get back to business as usual," she said. "They don't want property defaced. They don't want to be on the front page of the newspaper."

But Howard said she sees perseverance and a long-term vision for a "radical alternative" among the marchers and is hopeful for more substantive changes.

Civil rights icons Xernona Clayton and Andrew Young also predicted a broader impact from the protests.

"There's going to be a new consensus emerging about how to maintain law and order in a civilized society," said Young, a confidant of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. who went on to become a congressman, United Nations ambassador and Atlanta mayor.

Young said organizing protests during the civil rights era was harder, so that delayed some of the movement's victories.

Clayton said another difference was how receptive people in power were to demonstrators.

"They're at least talking about making the change and wanting to make the change," said Clayton, who served as King's office manager in Atlanta and organized protest marches and fund-raisers. "The people who have been the perpetrators — as I call them — are talking differently."



JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

Demonstrators walk Tuesday, near the White House in Washington, past a large banner that reads Black Lives Matter, hanging on a fence, after days of protests over the death of George Floyd.

NATION

Key Dems spurn push to defund police amid attacks

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump and his allies have seized on calls to “defund the police” as a dangerous example of Democratic overreach as he fights for momentum amid crises that threaten his reelection.

Key Democrats, including presumptive presidential nominee Joe Biden, are distancing themselves from the “defund” push, which some supporters have said is a symbolic commitment to end systemic racism and shift funding priorities rather than an actual plan to eliminate law enforcement agencies.

But confusion over the proposal’s intent has created an opportunity for the Republican president, who has struggled to navigate the delicate debate over racial justice, risking support from people of color, suburban women and independents less than five months before Election Day.

Facing increasing pressure to weigh in, Biden addressed the issue Monday in an interview with “CBS Evening News.”

“I don’t support defunding the police. I support conditioning federal aid to police based on whether or not they meet certain basic standards of decency, honorableness and, in fact, are able to demonstrate they can protect the community, everybody in the



MATT YORK/AP

Protesters rally last week in Phoenix, calling for the City Council to defund the Phoenix Police Department.

community,” Biden said.

Other opponents of the movement include Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., a former presidential candidate and one of two black Democratic senators, and Rep. Karen Bass, D-Calif., head of the Congressional Black Caucus.

NAACP President Derrick

Johnson, in an interview, also declined to endorse calls to defund the police.

“I support the energy behind it. I don’t know what that substantively means. As I’m talking to people about the concept, I’ve gotten three different explanations,” said Johnson, who has criticized

Trump. “We know there has to be a change in the culture of policing in this country.”

Democrats are well-positioned to win over the political center this fall, according to Republican pollster Frank Luntz, who said that Trump’s uneven actions and rhetoric at a time of sweeping so-

cial unrest are “killing him.”

Luntz added, however, that Democrats risk their advantage by embracing policies viewed as radical following the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. The handcuffed black man died after a white officer pressed his knee into Floyd’s neck for more than eight minutes.

There was little evidence that the effort was gaining momentum in Congress. Some Democrats described it as bad politics, even if most Democrats shared the desire to overhaul policing.

Former Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D., a white moderate who lost her 2018 reelection bid, said that “defund the police” is “a horrible name” that misconstrues the goal.

“By starting with the word ‘defund,’ you’ve left the impression that you are doing something much more radical than what needs to be done,” said Heitkamp, a leader of the One Country Project, which is trying to help Democrats connect better with rural voters.

She said the term left her frustrated that “there’s going to be somebody who’s going to try to find an opportunity in this, especially among the Republican Party, and use it now as an excuse not to address what is a very real problem in America.”

A look at Democrats’ sweeping proposals to overhaul policing

By COLLEEN LONG
and MICHAEL BALSAMO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats in Congress are proposing an overhaul of police procedures and accountability after the mass protests over the deaths of black Americans at the hand of law enforcement.

The Justice in Policing Act is among the most ambitious law enforcement reforms from Congress in years and confronts several aspects of policing that have come under strong criticism, especially as more and more police violence is captured on cellphone video and shared across the nation and the world.

The package limits legal protections for police, creates a national database of excessive-force encounters and bans police chokeholds, among other changes. The changes, if enacted, would have massive implications on policing

in the United States.

It’s not clear if the legislation will pass, especially in an election year and amid calls to “defund the police” and growing protests. President Donald Trump has tried to set himself up as a “law and order” leader and has criticized the package, claiming that Democrats have “gone CRAZY.”

A few things about the bill and how it could make a difference.

■ Under the proposal, the federal civil rights law that governs police misconduct would no longer require prosecutors to prove that an officer’s actions were willful, a high burden of proof. The law would allow an officer to be charged for acting with reckless disregard for someone’s life, causing that person’s death.

Under the current law, it is a federal crime to willfully deprive someone of their civil rights under the color of authority, but the officer also must have known

what they were doing was wrong and against the law, and decided to do it anyway.

■ Police officers are generally not held personally liable for anything that happens on the job, including when someone dies. The concept of qualified immunity has long been a way to protect police from unnecessary lawsuits and to give them the freedom to police without fear of unnecessary retribution.

The bill would amend federal misconduct statutes to make it easier for courts to find officers personally liable for the violation of civil rights. The move could have major consequences for officers who would think twice before abusing their power, but it could also make it more difficult to recruit police nationwide.

■ A long-held grievance has been that prosecutors and police have too cozy a relationship and can’t separate that out when misconduct is an issue. It is part

of the investigation now into the shooting death of Ahmaud Arbery in coastal Georgia. The father and son accused of killing Arbery had a long history with the local district attorney, the father having worked for the DA as an investigator for 20 years. The case is now being investigated by a separate district attorney.

Some states have created a special prosecutor to investigate all misconduct claims against local police. The bill provides a grant program for state attorneys general to conduct independent investigations into problematic police departments.

A second issue is that many officers who wind up involved in a fatal shooting have a long history of misconduct, including Derek Chauvin, the Minneapolis officer who has been charged with murder in the death of George Floyd. He had at least a dozen complaints made against him, according to records. But those

records are often not made public, making it difficult to know if officers have a track record. The bill calls for a national registry including complaints, disciplinary records and termination records, which proponents have said would be a massive step forward in transparency.

■ The bill also calls for a ban on “no knock” warrants, which are typically executed in some of the most dangerous investigations conducted by police departments. The legislation would specifically ban no-knock warrants for all federal drug cases and would require local and state law enforcement agencies to prohibit their use to qualify for some federal funding. Oregon and Florida are the only states that have outlawed such warrants.

There has been a growing call to ban no-knock warrants since 26-year-old Breonna Taylor was killed in her Louisville home by officers in March.



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NATION/WORLD

In Hong Kong, march marks year of change

By ZEN SOO
Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hundreds of people marched in Hong Kong's streets on Tuesday to mark a year since the start of anti-government protests, as the leader of the semi-autonomous city called for peace and stability.

"Everyone has to learn their lesson, including the Hong Kong government," Carrie Lam told reporters. "Hong Kong cannot bear that kind of chaos, and the people of Hong Kong want a stable and peaceful environment to be able to live and work here happily."

Lam did not elaborate on what lessons should be learned.

Hundreds of protesters marched in Hong Kong's central district Tuesday evening and shouted slogans including "Hong Kong independence, the only way out" and "Fight to the end."

They marched despite police warnings that force could be used to disperse participants and that they faced up to five years in prison. Riot police later charged at a group of protesters, deploying pepper spray and tackling some to the ground.

Tuesday is the one-year anniversary of a huge march through central Hong Kong that grew into a pro-democracy movement



KIN CHEUNG/AP

Police hold up a line alongside a protest marking the first anniversary of a mass rally against the now-withdrawn extradition bill in Hong Kong on Tuesday.

that saw protesters break into the legislative building and take to the streets every weekend for months.

The June 9, 2019, march was in opposition to a proposed extradition bill that would have allowed people in the former British colony, which has its own legal system, to be sent to mainland China to face trial. Organizers pegged the turnout at more than a million people, while police estimated the crowd at 240,000.

In the ensuing months of protests, violent clashes broke out at times between protesters and the police, leading to accusations of police brutality and sparking protester demands for an independent inquiry into police behavior.

China blames the protests in part on foreign intervention and is hastening to enact the national security law aimed at curbing secessionist and subversive activities in Hong Kong.

Wind, rain in Midwest from Cristobal

Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — The remnants of Tropical Storm Cristobal moved across parts of the Midwest on Tuesday after lashing the South, unleashing downpours and bringing gusty winds as more high winds, heavy rain and thunderstorms were forecast.

Heavy rain hit Missouri on Tuesday morning and Cristobal was expected to intensify later in the day as another "energetic" weather system approaches from the west and begins to interact with it, the National Weather Service said.

Cristobal may produce flash flooding and isolated river flooding, as well as a few tornadoes, the weather service said.

Wind gusts of up to 45 mph were expected in Chicago by Tuesday night, the weather service said. Boaters were being warned of gale-force winds on Lake Michigan on Tuesday and Wednesday.

High winds could be felt from Nebraska to Wisconsin, forecasters said. In parts of Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota, the gusty winds and low humidity will bring the threat of wildfires in areas with dry grass, forecasters warned.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Transportation

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Summer reading club to bring books to students

WV CHARLESTON — A summer reading project in West Virginia will bring about 200,000 books to children entering the first and second grades.

The West Virginia Blue Ribbon Selections Book Club is a partnership among the state Department of Education, Marshall University's June Harless Center and The Dollywood Foundation.

Two books will be shipped to the homes of about 37,000 children in mid-June and three more books will be sent in mid-July, the Department of Education said in a news release. First- and second-grade teachers will also receive these books before the start of the school year.

"These may be the only books some children have in their homes, and we hope this will be the beginning of a lifetime of reading and learning," said state schools Superintendent Clayton Burch.

Treasure chest hidden in Rockies finally found

NM SANTA FE — A bronze chest filled with gold, jewels and other valuables worth more than \$1 million and hidden a decade ago somewhere in the Rocky Mountain wilderness has been found, according to a famed art and antiquities collector who created the treasure hunt.

Forrest Fenn, 89, told the Santa Fe New Mexican on Sunday that a man who did not want his name released — but was from "back East" — located the chest a few days ago, and the discovery was confirmed by a photograph the man sent him.

He posted clues to the treasure's whereabouts online and in a 24-line poem that was published in his 2010 autobiography, "The Thrill of the Chase."

Fenn, who lives in Santa Fe, said that he hid the treasure as a way to tempt people to get into the wilderness and give them a chance to launch an old-fashioned adventure and expedition for riches.

Most in Sturgis wanted motorcycle rally delayed

SD STURGIS — A survey by the Sturgis City Council found that most locals want the 80th Annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally postponed due to the coronavirus.

The Rapid City Journal reported that the city mailed 3,290 surveys to resident addresses and more than 60% of those responding want the rally suspended.

The city will hear a presentation from the rally officials on Monday with information gathered throughout May and June from businesses, hotels, motels, campgrounds, police and hospitals. The city has said that it would make an official decision in mid-June on whether to continue moving forward with hosting the event.

Sturgis Rally and Events Director Jerry Cole said that his



GILLIAN JONES, THE (PITTSFIELD, MASS.) BERKSHIRE EAGLE/AP

Field of dreams

Mount Everett graduates and their immediate family sit together in socially distanced "boxes" during graduation exercises in the baseball field of the school in Sheffield, Mass., on Sunday.

staff and city officials have had about three to five meetings a day over the past few weeks with businesses, state and federal representatives and others.

Card program organized for isolated veterans

NH HOLLIS — New Hampshire residents are invited to write cards that will be delivered to veterans who are unable to see their loved ones during the coronavirus pandemic.

All cards will be delivered to the New Hampshire Veterans Home and the VA medical centers in Manchester and in White River Junction, Vt.

U.S. Sen. Maggie Hassan and Laura Landerman-Garber, of Hollis, announced the Cards 2 Connect Program. Landerman-Garber previously worked on a Military Holiday Card Challenge, in which people can send holiday cards to active-duty military troops.

Cards can be dropped off at the Hollis Pharmacy or sent to Laura Landerman-Garber, Card Challenge, 400 Amherst Street, Suite 407, Nashua, NH, 03063.

Lightning suspected in fire that razed church

MN MINNEAPOLIS — A church whose congregation dates back 144 years caught fire over the weekend in rural western Minnesota during a thunderstorm and was

THE CENSUS

10

The number of horses that died when a truck pulling a horse trailer on the New Jersey Turnpike crashed and burst into flames. State police said the truck was heading north at 3 a.m. Sunday in East Windsor, when it struck the concrete divider and burst into flames, killing the animals. Neither the driver nor the passenger were seriously injured. The cause of the crash is under investigation.

destroyed.

Bethel Lutheran Church caught fire early Saturday evening about 11 miles south of Battle Lake and "began to collapse before the fire was totally extinguished," read a statement from the Otter Tail County Sheriff's Office. No injuries were reported.

The Star Tribune reported that the Rev. Todd Hydden believes lightning caused the blaze.

The church has about 150 members. Worship services scheduled for late Sunday morning have been moved to the parking lot next to the charred rubble of the church, whose congregation was formed in 1876.

Road-rage incident led to chase and shooting

DE LEWES — A Delaware man has been charged with attempted murder after a road-rage incident in which police said that the attacker shot a man who tracked him down at his home.

According to Delaware State Police, a man with a red SUV driving recklessly down Camp Arrow Head Road late Saturday

afternoon in Lewes. The man followed the SUV and confronted the driver, 28-year-old Kevin Brownlee of Lewes. Police said that Brownlee attempted to punch the man and drove off while his victim's arm was stuck in the vehicle.

After the man got free, police said that Brownlee tried to run him over.

Police said that the victim, a 38-year-old man, then followed Brownlee back to his house, where they got into a fight. Police said that Brownlee got a gun from his home and shot the victim, who was able to run off after being struck in the arm and grazed in the head with a bullet.

Virus brings changes to annual day of service

MI DETROIT — An annual day of service in Detroit is seeing some changes due to the observance of social distancing during the coronavirus pandemic.

Residents are being asked to move their Aug. 1 Neighborhood Day events to front porches, lawns, sidewalks or driveways,

according to ARISE Detroit!

The event typically features more than 100 events that include art and music festivals, volunteer projects and school supply giveaways.

Organizers suggested that musicians can play on their front porches. Artists can display their work on sidewalks. Children can play chalk games or have other activities in driveways or backyards, while school supplies can be given away on a drive-thru and curbside pickup basis.

Helicopter museum to move for construction

IN BUNKER HILL — A museum devoted to the Huey helicopters that transported U.S. troops during the Vietnam war will be housed in a new building set for construction in north-central Indiana.

The National American Huey History Museum will be on a 22-acre site along U.S. 31, across from the Grissom Air Reserve Base in Bunker Hill, according to John Walker, president and founder of the nonprofit American Huey 369 Inc.

Work is expected to begin next spring on the 30,000-square-foot building which will include a repair hangar.

Although construction is moving ahead on the new museum building, when it might actually open to the public is still a question mark.

From wire reports

FACES

A way to process, protest

Amid unrest, songs continue to voice the black experience

By MESFIN FEKADU
Associated Press

After watching the ghastly video of George Floyd dying as a police officer pressed a knee on his neck, Grammy-nominated R&B singer Trey Songz couldn't sleep. He felt a pain in his gut so heavy it brought him down to his home studio, where he began recording a new song.

Songz, 35, said the melody and lyrics came to him quickly, but his voice cracked and he couldn't sing.

"As I tried to get (the lyrics) out, I couldn't get them out," he said. "My voice would break, or tears would fall."

So he went into the Los Angeles streets to protest alongside thousands grieving Floyd's death and demanding police reforms.

"It was so much love and good energy out there, like so much hope. Really looking to your right, to your left, seeing people of so many ethnicities standing for our cause — it gave me the strength that I needed to come back and finish the song," he said.

"2020 Riots: How Many Times" was released June 5 and features an all-black choir from Atlanta elevating Songz's passionate vocals on the track.

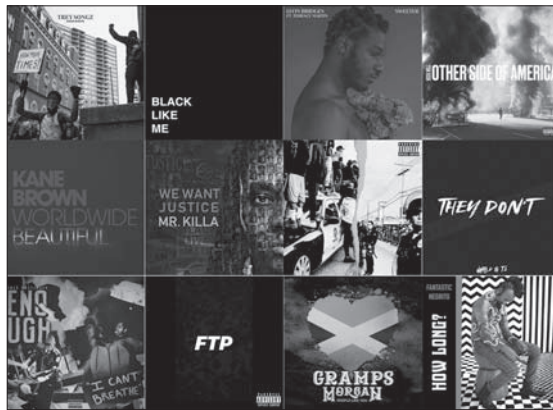
Others have released songs in the wake of Floyd's death and those of Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor. The artists include YG, Meek Mill, Kane Brown, Ty Dolla Sign, Terrace Martin and Run the Jewels.

"How you gonna serve and protect with your knee on my neck," T.I. raps on Nasty C's "They Don't," released June 5.

LL Cool J posted a fiery freestyle on Instagram and hip-hop artist Jung Young, who is white, takes discrimination against blacks on "God Only Knows."

"They killed a brother for the color of his skin again / Reminds me of how they treated Serena at Wimbledon," he raps.

Mickey Guyton, one of the few black voices on the country music scene, wrote the song



Cover art for 12 protest songs, top row from left: "2020 Riots: How Many Times" by Trey Songz, "Black Like Me" by Mickey Guyton, "Sweeter" by Leon Bridges featuring Terrace Martin, "Other Side of America" by Meek Mill; second row from left: "Worldwide Beautiful" by Kane Brown, "We Want Justice" by Mr. Killa, "Pig Feet" by Terrace Martin, "They Don't" by Nasty C and T.I.; bottom row from left: "Enough" by Eric Bellinger, "FTP" by YG, "People Like You" by Gramps Morgan, "How Long" by Fantastic Negrito.



Songz



Guyton



Bridges

"Black Like Me" last year about her life story and experiences with racism. She released the song on Black Out Tuesday, and said that when she hears it now she thinks of "George, Ahmaud, Breonna."

"I have been an absolute wreck since Ahmaud Aubrey (died). That's the first one that just punched me in my gut because you could see him in that video scared for his life. Then seeing Breonna Taylor and having a sister — I saw myself in her and that took me down a darker space. I've been crying for weeks. Then to see George Floyd..." she said. "I couldn't believe I had a song that expressed everything that we feel."

"Black Like Me" is a poignant tune featuring the lyrics: "If you think we live in the land of the free / You should try to be black like me."

"I wrote that song to heal my heart," she said. "This is a song for people to understand

what we're going through. We need to talk about that."

Like Guyton, Grammy-winning singer Leon Bridges pulled from a song he had previously written about black life and police brutality to relate to today's grief and pain. On Monday, he released the track "Sweeter."

"With that song, I want people to listen from the perspective of the black man. The black man in the grip of the oppressor. The black man in his last moments transitioning from life to death and literally his mind, body and soul is having a flashback to his murder, essentially," said Bridges, 30.

Others who recently released tracks about the black experience include Eric Bellinger, Gramps Morgan, Fantastic Negrito, Polo G, Joy Oladokun, Breland, Mr. Killa, Cory Henry and the Funk Apostles, Wyatt Waddell, King Osof and Teejayx6.

Songz, who has released 20 Top 10 R&B hits, said that while protesting he heard classic black pride songs from James Brown, Marvin Gaye and others working as the soundtrack for activists walking the streets.

"You couldn't be a musician and not address issues back then because you faced them so steadily. It just brought me to a place of, 'This is what I need to be doing.'"

Being a new father also played a large role in the song's creation: "Looking at my child is like, 'Wow! I gotta do everything that I can to make sure I say I fought the fight, so you don't have to go through that.'"

Calif. gives greenlight to theaters

Associated Press

California movie theaters can begin opening later this week if they limit theater capacity to 25% or no more than 100 attendees, under state guidance released Monday.

The guidance adds movie theaters to a long list of other businesses that can start reopening as the nation's most populous state relaxes its stay-at-home order.

The state recommends movie theaters implement reservation systems, designate arrival times and designating certain seats that people can use so that moviegoers can maintain 6 feet of distance from other groups. Moviegoers should, at a minimum, wear face coverings when entering and exiting the theater or buying concessions, the state guidance says.

The state also suggests theaters use disposable or washable seat covers that are easy to clean and prop open doors so people don't have to touch handles.

Meanwhile, the state is also allowing film, music and television production to resume subject to labor agreements. Film, television and commercial production makes up a significant amount of the Los Angeles economy.

California has reported more than 130,000 coronavirus cases and 4,600 deaths. For most people, the virus causes mild or moderate symptoms and clears up within weeks. But it can be more serious for some people, including older adults and people with pre-existing health conditions, causing pneumonia and even death.

Other news

■ **Bonnie Pointer**, who in 1969 convinced that of her purchasing siblings to form the Pointer Sisters, died Monday. The Grammy winner died of cardiac arrest in Los Angeles, publicist Roger Neal said. She was 69. Bonnie Pointer was an essential member of the group through its early hits. She left for a short and modest solo career in 1974 as her sisters Ruth, Anita and June went on to have several megahits without her.

New this week: Norah Jones, a Spike Lee Vietnam joint

Associated Press

Here's a collection curated by The Associated Press' entertainment journalists of what's arriving on TV, streaming services and music platforms this week.

Music

Chloe x Halle: The sophomore album from Chloe x Halle features a more grown-up side of Chloe, 21, and Halle, 20. The girls co-wrote, co-produced and engineered the album, which features the viral R&B hit "Coffee."

Norah Jones: Over the past two years, Norah Jones has held monthly recording

sessions with various musicians to create epingles. The result of those gatherings, along with unreleased songs from her 2019 project, make up "Put Me Up Off the Floor" — an 11-track album out Friday.

— AP Music Editor Mesfin Fekadu

Movies

"Da 5 Bloods": It's always the right time for a Spike Lee joint, and thankfully Netflix has his latest ready to debut Friday. Four veterans travel back to Vietnam to try to find the remains of their squad leader in this film that traverses decades and genres. Full of complex ideas, "Da 5 Bloods" is

guaranteed to enlighten and provoke.

"Artemis Fowl": Originally intended for theaters, Disney Plus is releasing Kenneth Branagh's big-budget adaptation of Eoin Colfer's "Artemis Fowl" on Friday. A young Irish genius (Ferdia Shaw) discovers a magical world in a quest to save his father (Colin Farrell) from a pack of fairies. Judi Dench and Josh Gad also star.

— AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr

Television

Gabrielle Union, engaged in a battle with NBC over her firing from "America's Got Talent," is in control on "L.A.'s Finest,"

the drama she produces and stars in with Jessica Alba. The series returns for season two on Spectrum, with the first two episodes out Monday. (Season one is airing on AFN-Spectrum; season two begins July 7.)

Medical practitioners can be heroic with or without a pandemic to battle, as made clear in "Lenox Hill." EMERs follow two brain surgeons, an African physician and an obstetrician at New York's Lenox Hill Hospital as they tend to their patients' care while also tending to their own lives — a challenge that includes pregnancy for two of the doctors. The eight-episode docuseries is out Wednesday on Netflix.

— AP Television Writer Lynn Elber

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OPINION

The office isn't dead. It's just convalescing.

By NISHA GOPALAN
Bloomberg Opinion

I returned to the office this week, joining thousands of bankers from Citigroup to Morgan Stanley that are trickling back to their desks in Hong Kong. After almost five months working from home, it's going to take some getting used to.

The easing of coronavirus lockdowns heralds the beginning of the end for the world's greatest work-from-home experiment. Perhaps, Twitter will let employees work from home permanently even after the outbreak recedes, while others such as Google have said staff should expect to stay away for the rest of the year. The upheaval caused by the pandemic has caused many to question whether we will ever return to business as usual, giving rise to headlines such as "the death of the office." I have my doubts.

My initial reaction at being told to stay home in law was panic. With two teenage daughters about to start online schooling and a husband who would also need to work from home, I struggled to see how our crowded 47th-floor apartment would cope. I'd had a taste already, when the office became all but inaccessible for several days during the height of Hong Kong's protests last year, so I knew what we were facing. Over the following, fractious few months, I have jostled for space on the dining table, mediated disputes between the girls, and tussled over the yoga mat — a crucial stretching prop for laptop-induced shoulder strains, as well as an essential accessory for online PE classes.

Somewhere along the line, I grew to like it. I'll miss the home-work experience, when it finally ends (like many other companies in Hong Kong, our return is on a split-tenant basis, so we aren't back at the office full time yet). The family has

Offices are more than just a place to do business — like the cities that surround them, they are meeting points for social and cultural exchanges.

bonded more tightly as a result. I've grown accustomed to the home-office rhythm, acquiring some admittedly unhealthy habits along the way — such as snacking on Cheetos, binging on TV news channels, and reading the obituaries.

I'm in the minority, though. We're fortunate in having more living space than most. In a city such as Hong Kong, which is densely packed with tiny apartments, it's simply not viable for many people to work from home indefinitely. The average apartment size is 430 square feet compared with 1,475 square feet in New York City, according to Jones Lang LaSalle Inc. Many employees just don't have the room to set up a home office. And living in such cramped quarters, they need to get up regularly.

The cost-benefit equation for Hong Kong is skewed. With urban areas being closely packed and the subway system efficient, getting to the office is quick and easy for most people. It may be a different story in the U.S., where cities sprawl into the suburbs, commute times may be long, and public transport is often less reliable. Or in Asian metropolises such as Mumbai, India, which is densely packed but plagued with horrendous traffic congestion and a more than 150-year-old train network that make suburban working attractive.

That's not to suggest that Hong Kong will escape any long-term impact from COVID-19. Macquarie Group is among companies

that have already decided to cut space in the city's skyscrapers. Other financial services firms can be expected to follow.

Still, there are many office jobs that can't be done remotely. At most, 30% of bank employees in the city can work from home, Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Francis Chan estimates. "In industries that thrive on information flow and speed, like sales and trading, you may see back offices and compliance work from home but traders will likely have to go back even if they already have three screens at home," said Parijat Banerjee, a financial services consultant at Singapore-based Greenwich Associates.

In any case, most people don't want to get rid of the workplace. HSBC Holdings analysts James Pomeroy and Davey Jones wrote in a report titled "Leaving the City." They just don't want to be there all the time. That broad conclusion applies across all developed markets where the technology is adequate to enable remote working, Pomeroy said.

Ultimately, offices are more than just a place to do business — like the cities that surround them, they are meeting points for social and cultural exchanges. Humans are social animals, and we need more contacts than those our immediate family provide.

That's a thought that resonated with me this week as I surveyed the near-deserted pantry at Bloomberg's central Hong Kong offices, a space that was typically heaving with people and animated conversations before the pandemic. A return to normality can't come soon enough.

Nisha Gopalan is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering deals and banking. She previously worked for The Wall Street Journal and Dow Jones as an editor and a reporter. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

Dark days for democracy in the Philippines

By ALEC REGINO
Special to The Washington Post

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to spread around the world, the Philippines is marching in lockstep with the United States and Brazil, fellow struggling democracies that are heading toward the edge of disaster. After dragging his feet during the initial phases of COVID-19 — going as far as stating "there is nothing real" to be extra scared of that coronavirus threat — in Feb. 3 briefing — President Rodrigo Duterte has now fast-tracked a controversial anti-terrorism bill through the Philippine House of Representatives. The bill, which received overwhelming support within the lower chamber, will be approved pending Duterte's signature.

The timing of the bill has left human rights groups nothing short of skeptical. As the nation continues to struggle through the government's awful response to the COVID-19 pandemic, what does such a law hope to accomplish?

If enacted, the bill will ease the legal restrictions on law enforcement in dealing with who is a terrorist and what rights these "terrorists" have under the law. In particular, it allows the warrantless arrest and detainment of those the government-appointed Anti-Terror Council deems "suspicious." Suspicious activities could range from attempting to damage government property to simply criticizing the administration online. It also allows for the secret surveillance and wiretapping of "suspect-

ed" criminals. According to the Philippine Commission on Human Rights, the bill's loose definition of terrorism allows the government to essentially tag any and all dissenters as terrorists without any judicial oversight.

The bill is yet another example of how the government has attempted to respond to a national crisis in a highly militarized, macho-populist fashion. Last year, Philippines' Congress — filled with Duterte's allies — cut 4 billion pesos (more than \$80 million) from the nation's calamity fund; since 2016, when Duterte came to power, it has cut 22.9 billion pesos (nearly \$460 million) from the fund. When the Taal volcano erupted in January, rather than accept responsibility for the government's lackadaisical approach to providing relief, Duterte instead cursed the volcano and threatened to "pee on Taal" to extinguish it. Just a few weeks later, as the nation braced itself for the COVID-19 pandemic, Duterte unconvincedly proclaimed that he was looking for the "idiot" coronavirus because he wanted to slay it.

It is clear that Duterte's traditional playbook of intimidating his opponents in public and overwhelming public dissent with his online troll army on social media is not effective under the stay-at-home reality that COVID-19 has forcibly thrust onto the world. No amount of fraudulent accounts spewing misinformation can reconcile the government's COVID-19 response with the fact that many of the nation's most destitute are being left behind.

As he often does, Duterte has once again played the blame game, asserting that the Philippines' failure to contain the pandemic rests on irresponsible lockdown violations and the nation's outdated and hard-headed populace. But this narrative of "us vs. them," wherein the president places the responsibility of his administration's failures on everyone and everything except himself, is collapsing under the current existential health crisis.

This might explain why Duterte has suddenly called for the swift approval of the "urgent" anti-terrorism bill. Unable to control the narrative as the nation's poorest starve, Duterte is instead diverting attention by attempting to put a muzzle on the opposition. In May, Philippine media network ABS-CBN was forced off the air, a move that media watchdogs saw as one of Duterte's many attempts to silence independent press. The proposed anti-terrorism bill is yet another nail in the coffin of the Philippines' waning democracy.

Duterte's push for the bill goes beyond just being a mismanaged set of priorities from the administration. His administration is knowingly exploiting the suffering of the Filipino populace in the midst of a global pandemic. It is not attempting to protect the Philippines from a potential terrorist threat, but rather supplying itself with the unchecked power to arrest and detain dissenters. Philippine democracy itself is on the verge of collapse.

Alec Regino is a postgraduate student at McGill University in Montreal.

OPINION

Progressives have power to help black Americans

By HENRY OLSEN
The Washington Post

The Minneapolis City Council's apparent decision to defund its police force is shocking. It is also a clear demonstration of how much power progressives hold to address racial inequality if they really want to.

Control and funding of police departments are entirely local affairs. There is no federal or state constitutional requirement for any city to have a police department, and many smaller cities across the country do not. Professional police forces did not even exist in the United States until 1844, when New York City created the first department. Minneapolis' tentative decision is entirely within its — and its voters' — purview.

Police are far from the only important institution under primarily local control. Public K-12 schools are still largely managed by locally elected school boards. Local governments employ hundreds of thousands of people nationwide, and they contract with private firms to provide services that employ millions more. The power of the local purse to impact employment decisions within a city or county's boundaries is immense.

This power is largely held by Democrats in most of the city and county governments where black people disproportionately live. For every Rudy Giuliani who rises to power in a big city as a Republican, there are tenfold Democrats running local governments.

This gives Democratic progressives massive power to change the treatment of black Americans. They can make changes to the practices by which local governments recruit, hire, fire and promote people of color. They can change police departments and county prosecutor offices to enhance fair treatment of black communities. They can use their power to contract for city services to push reform into the private sec-



MATT YORK/AP

Protesters rally last week in Phoenix, demanding the Phoenix City Council defund the Phoenix Police Department. The protest is a result of the death of George Floyd, a black man who died after being restrained by Minneapolis police officers on May 25.

tor. The list goes on.

Progressives also hold immense power to change black Americans' lives outside of their control of local government. They dominate Hollywood, yet racial disparities in hiring actors and directors remain so strong that this year's Oscars were again criticized as "so white." Progressives head many, if not most, of the nation's leading universities and state-financed systems of higher education. When possible, they do push for strong levels of recruitment of black students, but diversity remains sorely lacking among tenure-track professors and college administrators. Only 8% of college presidents were black in 2016, and none of the presidents of the country's top 20 uni-

versities in the U.S. News & World Report rankings are black. Indeed, there are currently more people of color leading major conservative think tanks (the Hoover Institution, the Manhattan Institute and the Heritage Foundation) than there are leading major research universities. (L. Rafael Reif, the Hispanic president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is the only nonwhite president.)

Many other powerful institutions are also dominated by the left. An analysis of partisan leanings by profession has found that Democrats dominate in law, engineering, technology, media and the arts. Progressives also control philanthropy, psychiatry, libraries and public relations. Even religion

tits Democratic, and presumably is massively blue once one excludes conservative evangelical Christian denominations from the mix. Progressives have a lot of private power to quickly implement nondiscriminatory employment practices without any oversight from Republicans.

It's peculiar, to say the least, that race tensions and inequality remain so high given that this vast power rests with people who claim racial harmony and equality are top priorities for them. The Pew Research Center recently found that 65% of white Democrats believe the country has not done enough to give blacks equal rights to whites. That figure rises to 76% among college-educated Democrats. Pollster David Winston examined data from 2017 and found that racial equality was the fifth-most-important issue priority for the Democratic/independent left.

None of this means that improving race relations and equality isn't a matter for all Americans, including conservatives. It is, and we should all work to treat everyone as a person equal in their humanity and dignity. Anything less than that is a violation of our moral obligations and our national political creed.

It does, however, mean that changes that don't require national or state legislation can happen right now. Hollywood doesn't need a federal edict to hire more black directors and actors. Colleges and universities don't need a new Civil Rights Act to ensure that black candidates are preferred for leadership positions. Cities and counties don't need to wait for the repeal of the qualified-immunity doctrine to change the way their police forces operate. They just need to align their deeds with their words.

Progressives and Democrats frequently proclaim their intense fidelity to the cause of racial equality. Perhaps they should take the beam out of their own eyes first.

Henry Olsen is a Washington Post columnist and a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center.

Ruling unintentionally provides cover for police brutality

By CHARLES LANE
The Washington Post

How different history might have been if a police bodycam or bystander's cellphone had recorded the events of Nov. 12, 1984, outside a convenience store on West Boulevard in Charlotte, N.C.

At that time and place, Dethorne Graham, a diabetic African American man who worked repairing roads for the state, experienced an insulin reaction and rushed into the shop to get orange juice — then rushed back out when he saw the line at the cash register was too long.

He and a friend drove off, followed by a police patrol car. The officer inside, M.S. Connor, thought Graham's hasty in-and-out was the behavior of a shoplifter.

Moments later, Graham and his companion had been pulled over. When Graham began behaving erratically because of illness, Connor and four other officers handcuffed him and shoved him into their car as a crowd of onlookers gathered. The police cursed Graham and accused him of faking illness — until realizing their mistake and taking him home. With injuries including a broken foot, Graham sued the officers in federal court.

By 1989, Graham v. Connor had reached the Supreme Court — where the court's ruling would establish legal standards for police brutality lawsuits that reverberate today.

Every police use of force since reflects law enforcement's absorption of constitutional lessons the justices drew from the Charlotte police's violent treatment of an innocent, desperately ill man. Training for police officers across the country — probably including Derek Chauvin of Minneapolis — teaches that they can't be sued if they behave in accordance with the holding of Graham v. Connor.

That holding, in an opinion written by Chief Justice William Rehnquist, is that courts should evaluate use of force under the Fourth Amendment, which governs "seizures" — not under the expansive "substantive due process" doctrine underlying liberal rulings such as *Roe v. Wade* and, later, *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the 2015 same-sex marriage case.

Courts should determine not whether the officer acted with malicious intent, as previous legal doctrine from lower courts had suggested, but whether he behaved "reasonably" under the circumstances, Rehnquist wrote.

"Reasonable," in turn, would not be determined in hindsight, or relative to a reasonable civilian's view, but from the point of view "of a reasonable officer on the scene," the chief justice said. Courts must bear in mind the cop on the beat's "tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving" world. As it happens, Connor was black; other officers on the scene, including one who slammed Graham's face into his car hood,

were white.

This formulation defers to law enforcement's perspective, which is not surprising, given that President Richard Nixon appointed the conservative Rehnquist to the court in 1972 to undo restraints on police fashioned by the liberal Warren Court in the 1960s.

And in 1989, that was a popular objective: The violent crime rate was nearly twice what it is today, and rising. Responding like many other politicians to public anxiety, then-Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., faulted President George H.W. Bush's drug-war plan because it didn't "include enough police officers to catch the violent thugs."

Graham's lawyers and others thought Graham v. Connor might help plaintiffs by making it possible to prove police brutality without exploring the inherently murky issue of officer intent. On a court including liberal icons Thurgood Marshall, William Brennan and Harry Blackmun, the ruling in the case was 9 to 0, though those three expressed minor reservations in a brief concurring opinion.

However, Graham v. Connor did not prove a great help to police brutality victims, as Dethorne Graham himself quickly learned when the Supreme Court remanded his case to the district court for trial in North Carolina — and a jury found the police's conduct reasonable. Similar results have occurred in case after case since, to the point where police now regard Graham

as their legal shield.

As legal scholar Osagie Obasogie of the University of California at Berkeley has pointed out, Graham v. Connor's police-friendly reasonableness test is, in practice, no less vague or manipulable than previous doctrine, while characterizing brutality claims as violations of the Fourth Amendment recasts them as one-off abuses, not systemic ones.

Reflecting such concerns after the police killing of Stephen Clark in Sacramento in 2018, a recent California law tightened deadly-force rules for that state.

Rehnquist's opinion did not even mention race; it reported Graham's injuries and distress, but in bare-bones language. That could not have happened if cellphone video and social media had existed in 1984.

A link between Graham v. Connor and today's court is that Chief Justice John Roberts was a law clerk (and friend) both to Rehnquist and to the distinguished federal appeals court judge whose police brutality doctrine Rehnquist modified: Henry Friendly, of New York.

Sooner or later, it will be the turn of Roberts and his colleagues to reshape constitutional law on police use of force. Technology and a mass social movement would seem to guarantee that, when the court does speak, it cannot be in the bloodless abstractions of Graham v. Connor.

Washington Post editorial writer/columnist Charles Lane specializes in economic and fiscal policy.

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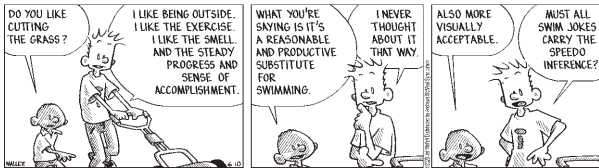
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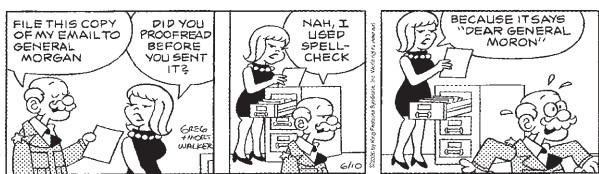
Candorville



Carpe Diem



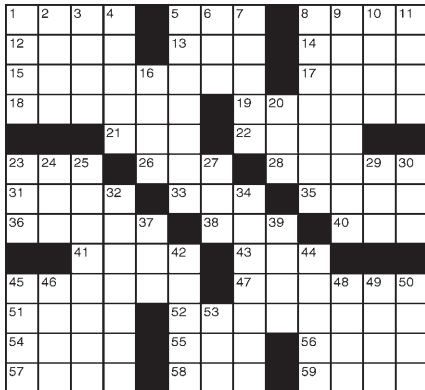
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



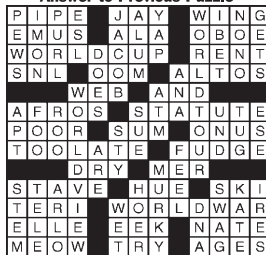
ACROSS

- 1 Wheels of fortune?
- 5 Stock holder
- 8 Exercise in a pool
- 12 Now, on a memo
- 13 "Bali —"
- 14 Top-of-the-line
- 15 Social service concern
- 17 "— la Douce"
- 18 Main dish
- 19 Made pig sounds
- 21 New England cape
- 22 Chris of "The Good Wife"
- 23 "Humbug!"
- 26 Carried out
- 28 "Swell!"
- 31 Jai —
- 33 Tic-tac-toe loser
- 35 Sketch
- 36 — Gras
- 38 La-la lead-in
- 40 Lair
- 41 "Wild" actress
- 43 Here, to Henri
- 45 Nanny's warning
- 47 Literary categories
- 51 "Law & Order: SVU" actor
- 52 Nut
- 54 Scottish slope
- 55 Sleep phenom

DOWN

- 1 Lingerie trim
- 2 "This — outrage!"
- 3 Sail support
- 4 Verdi work
- 5 Capital of Arizona
- 6 Corn spike
- 7 Olympus rival
- 8 Canonized
- 9 Toll away
- 10 "By the power vested — ..."
- 11 Honey drink
- 16 Travel
- 20 Charged bit
- 23 "Kapow!"
- 24 In the style of
- 25 Stubborn person
- 27 Speck
- 29 Menlo Park monogram
- 30 Have
- 32 Thinks creatively
- 34 Paper-folding art
- 37 Hip-hop record producer Gotti
- 39 Scored 100 on
- 42 India's first prime minister
- 44 Rack up, as debt
- 45 Short protectors
- 46 Beige
- 48 Scarce
- 49 Old U.S. gas brand
- 50 Salty waters
- 53 Still, in verse

Answer to Previous Puzzle



6-10

CRYPTOQUIP

D X X E T D Q Q N D Y
E D U K P X J Y U P X P' P E F O, D
G T K P F Q O E F X O U P X R E D U K
G T K R T B X Y J B F N Y C O U Q
A T P X F R A K D U C.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A DONKEY OR A MULE PRODUCES A COMPLETE, UNBROKEN HEE-HAW, WHAT HAS IT DONE? BRAYED IN FULL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals T

GOLF SCOREBOARD/SPORTS BRIEFS

LPGA loses first major as Evian in France canceled

By DOUG FERGUSON

Associated Press

The LPGA Tour lost its first major because of the COVID-19 pandemic when it announced Tuesday the Evian Championship in France has been canceled this year.

The LPGA Tour cited ongoing travel and border restrictions, along with government quarantine requirements for not holding the tournament on Aug. 6-9. It will return to the schedule next year in Evian-les-Bains.

The LPGA Tour is set to resume in Ohio with the Marathon Classic on July 23-26. For now, it has majors scheduled in August, September, October and December.

"I have been incredibly impressed by the entire team at the Evian Championship. They worked so hard to host this global event despite the obvious challenges," LPGA Commissioner Mike Whan said.

"They know that high-pursed, career-changing events like the Evian are more important than ever, especially in an LPGA year that has been drastically reduced due to COVID-19. I know this was a tough decision for everyone involved, but it's one that we had to take given the restrictions we faced."

The Evian dates to 1994 when it began as a Ladies European Tour event, and it became part of the LPGA schedule in 2000 when it

was the Evian Masters. With one of the higher purses in women's golf, the LPGA designated it as a fifth major in 2013. It was moved from September to July in 2019 for better weather conditions.

In the revised schedule brought on by the pandemic, it was to be the first of three European events, preceding the Ladies Scottish Open and the Women's British Open. Those two events remain on the schedule.

The ANA Inspiration in California, originally scheduled for the first week in April, has been moved to Sept. 10-13. The Women's PGA Championship outside Philadelphia is scheduled for Oct. 8-11. The U.S. Women's Open is Dec. 10-13 in Houston,



LAURENT CIPRIANI/AP

Lydia Ko tees off at the Evian Championship in 2016. The LPGA Tour has lost its first major because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The tour says the Evian Championship has been canceled this year because of travel and border restrictions in France.

three weeks after the LPGA Tour season concludes with the CME Group Tour Championship in Florida.

That means the LPGA will have no more than three majors in its season.

The PGA Tour will have only one major in its season, with the British Open having been canceled. The U.S. Open moving from June to September and the Masters going from April to November.



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Deals

Monday's transactions

FOOTBALL
National Football League
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Signed WR Freddie Swain.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
ARIZONA COYOTES — Named Xavier A. Gutterer team president.

COLLEGE
LA SALLE — Named Jeff Garbutt head men's and women's rowing coach.
TENNESSEE — Named Megan Rhodes Smith softball assistant pitching coach.

Auto racing

Blue-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 500 lineup
Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series
Race Wednesday
At Martinsville Speedway
Ridgeway, Virginia
Lap length: .526 miles
(Car number in parentheses)

1. (12) Ryan Blaney, Ford.
2. (10) Aric Almirola, Ford.
3. (22) Joey Logano, Ford.
4. (14) Clint Bowyer, Toyota.
5. (19) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota.
6. (23) Daniel Suarez, Toyota.
7. (18) Kyle Busch, Toyota.
8. (88) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet.
9. (1) Kurt Busch, Chevrolet.
10. (4) Kevin Harvick, Ford.
11. (3) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet.
12. (11) Denny Hamlin, Toyota.
13. (20) Erik Jones, Toyota.
14. (8) Tyler Reddick, Chevrolet.
15. (24) William Byron, Chevrolet.
16. (25) Cole Custer, Ford.
17. (47) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Chevrolet.
18. (38) John Hunter Nemechek, Ford.
19. (21) Matt DiBenedetto, Ford.
20. (42) Matt Kenseth, Chevrolet.
21. (48) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet.
22. (10) Christopher Bell, Toyota.
23. (43) Bubba Wallace, Chevrolet.
24. (17) Chris Buescher, Ford.
25. (9) Tycho Larsson, Toyota.
26. (27) J. J. Yeley, Ford.
27. (6) Cole Custer, Ford.
28. (37) Ryan Preece, Chevrolet.
29. (14) Tyler Reddick, Chevrolet.
30. (13) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet.
31. (15) Brennan Poole, Chevrolet.
32. (10) Christopher Bell, Toyota.
33. (53) David Starr, Chevrolet.
34. (21) Jeff Houtz, Chevrolet.
35. (77) Garrett Smithley, Chevrolet.
36. (51) Joey Gase, Toyota.
37. (22) Daniel Suarez, Toyota.
38. (66) Timmy Hill, Toyota.
39. (7) Chad Sorenson, Chevrolet.

Briefly

Promoter: Fury-Wilder III by end of year

Associated Press

The U.S. promoter of Tyson Fury is hoping to stage a third heavyweight fight between the British boxer and Deontay Wilder by the end of the year, potentially in the Chinese enclave of Macau.

Bob Arum told The Associated Press that Fury "owes" Wilder a third fight after claiming the WBC belt off the American with a seventh-round stoppage in February. Only then would Fury turn his attention to an all-British fight with Anthony Joshua, the WBA, IBF and WBO titleholder, in early 2021.

"We hope to do that fight in November or December," Arum, the CEO of Top Rank, said of Fury-Wilder III.

"Whether it's for a full audience or a limited audience in the United States or put it on in Macau, which may be open for full arenas as early as November...you know, we're exploring all our options."

Joshua is also set to fight this year, against mandatory IBF challenger Kubrat Pulev.

"Next year there'll be this huge fight with Fury and Joshua, that's the way the cards turn," Arum said. "And I agree it will be a massive, massive fight wherever it takes place, U.S., U.K. or someplace elsewhere."

Fury has said he has been approached to take on Mike Tyson after the 53-year-old former undisputed world champion posted workout clips on social media last month, proclaiming "I'm back."

But Arum meets in a "joke" fight for charity.

"If it's anywhere near serious, I'm not going to be a participant in something that could be really bad and sad," he told the AP. "Mike Tyson was a great fighter, he's in his 50s now. (He) doesn't go and

fight really seriously a guy who is at the top of his game in his 30s. "That's not right and nobody should encourage it. If it's a joke, they go and spar around, who cares? And particularly for charity, that's great."

Fury-Wilder II was the last fight Arum promoted before the enforced shutdown of sport because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Arum will use the same venue, the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, to launch live boxing's comeback in the United States on Tuesday.

A six-fight card, headlined by WBO featherweight world champion Shakur Stevenson, will kick off a series of twice-weekly events in a hotel ballroom across June and July which will all be staged without fans and media, with the fight announcers based remotely.

In the arena, the fight judges will be pushed back from their usual ringside position and adjudicated from a distance of eight feet.

All boxers will have been tested for COVID-19 on arrival and then have their movement limited to a bubble of block-booked floors of the hotel and a separate room where they will train and eat. A dedicated lift will transport fighters between the two areas.

They will then be tested again for the coronavirus after Monday's weigh-in.

"It is more than ethical," Arum said of bringing boxing back during a pandemic. "It is something that is a contribution because people are battling this coronavirus, but they still have to lead their lives."

"They still are entitled to enjoyment. Nothing gives people enjoyment like live sports, whether it's boxing or football or something like that."

Spurs' Aldridge out for season after surgery

Seven-time All-Star LaMarcus Aldridge will miss the remainder of San Antonio's season while he recovers from surgery on his right shoulder, a major blow to the Spurs' postseason chances, assuming the season continues as planned.

The Spurs announced Monday that Aldridge had the surgery on April 24, stemming from an injury he suffered in a game at Utah on Feb. 21.

San Antonio is one of the 22 teams will that report to the ESPN Wide World of Sports complex at the Disney campus near Orlando, Fla., starting next month, when the NBA plans to resume its season. The Spurs have been to the playoffs in 22 consecutive seasons, matching the longest streak in NBA history.

When play resumes, the Spurs will be among four teams — the others being Portland, New Orleans and Sacramento — that are all separated by a half-game in the race for ninth place in the Western Conference and potentially a berth in a play-in series.

Status uncertain for Warriors' Thompson

SAN FRANCISCO — The Golden State Warriors expect to have a better idea about how long LaMarcus Aldridge's recovery from reconstructive knee surgery is going once the team can finally reconvene after the long separation caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

For now, general manager Bob Myers is encouraged Thompson has experienced no setbacks during the extensive rehabilitation process.

"I think we've got to take a look



ERIC GAY/AP

Spurs forward LaMarcus Aldridge will miss the remainder of San Antonio's season while he recovers from surgery on his right shoulder.

at him when we see him," Myers said Monday on a conference call. "There's different versions of 100% — 100% for you or I when we walk around the street is not 100% of an NBA basketball player playing basketball. So until we kind of test him and see him and he's starting one-on-one and then two-on-two — and obviously the pandemic has not allowed him that opportunity to do those type of things."

Thompson tore the ACL in his left knee on June 13 during Game 6 of the NBA Finals against the Toronto Raptors and had surgery July 2. He was reevaluated over the All-Star break and the team determined around that time that Stephen Curry's Splash Brother wouldn't play at all this season without the team being in the mix for the playoffs following five straight trips to the NBA Finals.

MLB

MLB proposes as many as 16-team playoffs

By BEN WALKER
Associated Press

Maybe this might get Mike Trout back into the playoffs.

Major League Baseball is tossing around plenty of ideas these days to start up after the coronavirus pandemic—DHs in the National League, neutral-site games, personal rosin bags for pitchers.

Now comes a proposal certain to truly upend the sport: Up to 16 playoff teams.

More than half of the 30 clubs

advance. No need to finish over .500, probably. This skewed season, heck, 35 wins could be enough to play into October.

OK, we've heard this before, that an extra wild-card team or two represents the NHL-ization of baseball. But to some, an expansion from 10 playoff clubs to 16 would mean the end of civilization.

Longtime manager Jim Riggleman chuckled at that notion.

"I think that whatever they come up with this year to play,

anything goes. That's fine," he said. "But moving forward into next year, I wouldn't be in favor of that many teams making the playoffs. I don't think many players would be, either."

"To say that 16 of 30 teams are playoff teams," he said, "you've got to raise the bar higher than that."

Other sports are accustomed to a plethora of postseason hopefuls.

LeBron James and NBA teams have been putting 16 of 30 into the

playoffs. Alex Ovechkin and the NHL clubs welcome 16 of 31. Patrick Mahomes and NFL squads will bump up from 12 to 14 of 32 this season.

For Aaron Judge, Clayton Kershaw, Juan Soto and others on elite teams, an expanded playoff field and extra games might make it tougher to bring home the trophy. In its offer to players Monday, MLB didn't specify how a playoff format would work with as many as eight teams in each league for this year and 2021.

For Josh Bell, Joey Votto, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and more whose clubs often are way behind, this could be an opportunity. Get off to a surprising 15-6 start in a dramatically shortened season, there's a chance.

No doubt, a lot of Trout fans won't mind that. The three-time AL MVP and eight-time All-Star has never won a playoff game in his career—he made it that far only once, when his Angels were swept by Division Series in the 2014 Division Series.

Looking at the hits, errors as baseball's draft enters new era

By MIKE FITZPATRICK
Associated Press

NEW YORK
Baseball's amateur draft is about to enter the next phase of its ongoing development—same as all those young prospects picked every year.

Even before the coronavirus pandemic, the 2020 version was preparing for a move to Omaha, Neb., to coincide with the College World Series there. The idea was to stage a bigger television event with more elite players on hand, like Arizona State first baseman Spencer Torkelson and Vanderbilt infielder Austin Martin.

Of course, the COVID-19 outbreak scuttled the CWS and sent draft headquarters back to mostly empty MLB Network studios this week in Secaucus, N.J. Major League Baseball owners and players agreed to slash from 40 rounds to five, beginning Wednesday night with the first 37 picks. The remaining 123 will be made Thursday.

MLB Network and ESPN will both produce broadcasts Wednesday, the first time multiple networks will provide live coverage in prime time. Much like the NFL draft in April, remote cameras will show premier prospects and club executives in their homes or offices.

For months now, scouts benched at home with no prep games to attend have been relegated to evaluating video and meeting on Zoom.

"I've slept more this spring than I have in other springs, so I'm a little more rested. That'll help," Tampa Bay Rays senior director of amateur scouting Rob Metzler said with a chuckle. "It's just a different challenge."

Next year, teams can cap the draft at 20 rounds if they choose. MLB also has proposed cutting the minimum number of minor league affiliations from 160 to 120, allowing each organization to drop at least one.

So with owners intent on streamlining farm systems and the current labor agreement set

to expire after 2021, it seems reasonable to think the June draft that began in 1965 might never look the same.

Perhaps 20 rounds (or even fewer) will become the norm.

A look back at some of the biggest busts, best decisions and pivotal moments that mark the evolution of Major League Baseball's amateur draft since center fielder Rick Monday was selected first overall 55 years ago by the Kansas City Athletics out of Arizona State:

On second thought

Monday became a two-time All-Star who played 19 big league seasons and hit 241 home runs—plus a momentous one that put the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 1981 World Series.

But with the top pick in the second June amateur draft in 1966, the New York Mets swung and missed.

They went for high school catcher Steve Chilcott, who never made the majors. Next, the A's grabbed Hall of Fame slugger Reggie Jackson from Arizona State. Not only was Mr. October the 1973 World Series MVP in Oakland's seven-game victory over the Mets, he also starred in three Fall Classics for the cross-town New York Yankees, leading them to two titles.

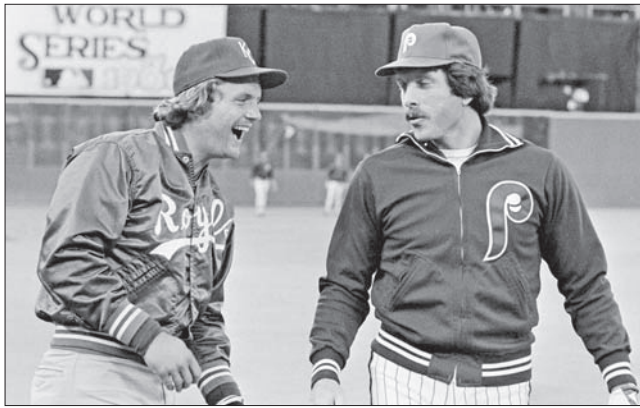
Ouch.

Other regrettable 1-2 choices: Matt Anderson (Tigers) over J.D. Drew (Phillies) in 1997; Matt Bush (Padres) over Justin Verlander (Tigers) in 2004; and Mark Appel (Astros) over Kris Bryant (Cubs) in 2013.

Back-to-back homers

Hall of Fame third baseman George Brett and Mike Schmidt came off the board with consecutive picks early in the 1971 second round. Brett went 29th overall to the Kansas City Royals out of high school in California, then Schmidt at No. 30 to the Philadelphia Phillies from Ohio University.

"One of the most exciting times in my life," Schmidt said in an



Kansas City's George Brett, left, and Philadelphia's Mike Schmidt share a laugh before the first game of the 1980 World Series, won by Schmidt's Phillies. The players were taken 29th and 30th in the 1971 draft and both made the Hall of Fame.



MIKE GROLL/AP

Mike Piazza, shown at his 2016 Hall of Fame induction, wasn't drafted until the 62nd round.

email last week.

The sluggers stayed connected at the hip for almost two decades, too.

Each won his league's MVP award in 1980, when Schmidt and the Phillies beat Brett and the Royals for their first World Series championship. Good friends, they retired neck-and-neck in a key (and disputed) category.

"George and I finished with the same number of career RBIs—1,595. But when he realized that, he hired someone to go back through his career and find an

RBI," Schmidt wrote. "He succeeded and now has 1,596. Anything to top me. My comeback that I hit the roof of the Astrodome with 2 on base and settled for a single, that's 3 RBIs. ... I should have 1,598."

Slimming down

As recently as the 1990s, teams could make picks as long as they wanted in an unlimited draft.

Hall of Fame catcher Mike Piazza was famously selected during the 62nd round in 1988 by the Dodgers. Right-hander Clay Condry lasted until the 94th round in 1996, when the Yankees took him with the 1,730th overall choice out of Angelina College in Texas. Condry didn't sign with New York but eventually went 18-12 with four saves in 179 games for the Padres and Phillies, winning a World Series ring as a useful member of Philadelphia's 2008 bullpen.

A quick Google search identifies Condry as the lowest-drafted player to reach the majors.

The draft was trimmed to 50 rounds in 1998 and 40 in 2012.

Welcome to the show

Long held by conference call at the commissioner's office in New York, the draft relocated near

Disney World in Florida with afternoon broadcasts by ESPN2 in 2007 and 2008. The event went prime time in 2009 on the new MLB Network and has remained there since.

Stephen Strasburg was the no-doubt No. 1 pick to Washington in 2009, considered one of the top pitching prospects ever. All that hype came to fruition a decade later, when he was the World Series MVP as the Nationals won the franchise's first championship last year.

The lone amateur to show up at that first draft in Secaucus was a little-known high school outfielder from southern New Jersey who waited until the 25th pick for then-commissioner Bud Selig to announce his name: "Michael Trout."

Surrounded by family and friends in an imitation dugout, Trout went to the Los Angeles Angels with a selection they received as compensation for losing free agent Mark Teixeira to the Yankees — and after the Angels took another high school outfielder, Randal Grichuk, at No. 24.

"It was nerve-racking for me," said Trout's father, Jeff, who played in the minors for the Minnesota Twins. "I didn't know if we were going to sit here for three days."

COLLEGES/SOCCER/NHL

Georgia Tech giving athletes Election Day off

Move comes in wake of protests

By PAUL NEWBERRY
Associated Press

ATLANTA — In the wake of nationwide protests over police brutality, Georgia Tech wants to make sure its athletes take time to vote in November.

The school said Thursday that nine teams, including football, will cancel all mandatory activities on Nov. 3 to recognize the importance of casting a ballot.

Geoff Collins was one of the first Power Five football coaches to express his support for those protesting the death of George Floyd, a handcuffed black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for several minutes even after he stopped moving and pleading for air.

The death has sparked widespread protests and rekindled the debate over injustice toward African Americans.

"I need to find a way to lend my voice to what's going on in the black community," Collins, who is white, told reporters this week on a video conference call. "It matters to me. For far too long, I've been an internal guy, sending my thoughts and prayers and really seeing how this impacts guys on a daily basis my entire career."

"It was on my heart to step out with a small statement, lend a small voice, share my voice and try to find a way to help the healing process, make this world a better place. I want to let my guys know and the black community as a whole know that your expe-

rience matters. You matter. Your hopes matter. Your dreams matter. Your life matters."

Election Day comes four days before Georgia Tech's football team is scheduled to host Duke.

Other teams that pledged to refrain from any mandatory activities on Nov. 3 include men's and women's basketball, both of which will be preparing for the start of their seasons, along with women's volleyball, men's swimming and diving, and the men's and women's teams for tennis and indoor track and field.

In addition, the women's swimming and diving team has a meet set for Nov. 3 but is working with its opponent to reschedule.

Elsewhere, the nine men's basketball coaches of the American East Conference also pledged to give their players a mandatory day off on Election Day. Gonzaga coach Mark Few made the same commitment for his men's basketball team and called on other coaches to join him.

"I am very proud of our student-athletes and coaches for identifying a great way that they can take action to make a difference in our communities and society," Georgia Tech athletic director Todd Stansbury said in a statement. "It is our responsibility to provide student-athletes with an environment that promotes civic duty."

Women's basketball coach Nell Fortner and men's basketball coach Josh Pastner began pushing the idea at Georgia Tech after meeting with athletes to discuss ways to make a difference.



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Megan Rapinoe, right, kneels next to teammates, from left, Christen Press, Ali Krieger, Crystal Dunn and Ashlyn Harris as the national anthem is played before a U.S. Women's National Team soccer exhibition against the Netherlands in Atlanta in 2016. The U.S. Women's National Team wants the U.S. Soccer Federation to repeal the anthem policy it instituted after Rapinoe started kneeling.

U.S. women's soccer team wants federation to repeal anthem policy

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The U.S. women's national team wants the U.S. Soccer Federation to repeal the anthem policy it instituted after Megan Rapinoe started kneeling during the "The Star-Spangled Banner."

The U.S. women's team also wants the federation to state publicly that the policy was wrong and issue an apology to the team's black players and supporters.

"Further, we believe the Federation should lay out its plans on how it will now support the message and movement that it tried to silence four years ago," the U.S. women's team said in a statement posted on the Twitter feed of its players association Monday night.

Rapinoe took a knee during the anthem at a pair of national team matches in 2016. She said she wanted to express solidarity with San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who silently took a knee during the national anthem before NFL games to raise awareness of police brutality and racial in-

justice. The U.S. Soccer Federation then approved a policy in February 2017 that stated players "shall stand respectfully" during national anthems.

The policy remains in place, though the unions for the men's and women's teams believe it doesn't apply to their players because of their collective bargaining agreements.

Kaepernick and Rapinoe each faced sharp criticism for the protest for years. But public sentiment has changed since George Floyd's death last month.

Floyd, a black man, died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck while Floyd was handcuffed and saying that he couldn't breathe. His death sparked protests in Minneapolis and around the country, some of which became violent.

A lawyer for the men's team union also called for the repeal of the policy and an apology in a statement provided to BuzzFeed News, which was the first to report on the U.S. women's statement.

A message was left by the AP seeking comment from the federation.



DUANE BURLESON/AP

San Jose Sharks left wing Evander Kane is among seven current or former black NHL players who have formed the Hockey Diversity Alliance to fight racism and intolerance in the sport.

Current, ex-NHL players form diversity alliance

Associated Press

Seven current or former black NHL players formed the Hockey Diversity Alliance on Monday, creating another avenue to fight racism and intolerance in the sport.

Akim Aliu, whose story of racism in hockey in late 2019 brought the topic back to the forefront, and San Jose forward Evander Kane will head up the group. The executive committee is made up of Minnesota defenseman Matt Dumba, Detroit defenseman Trevor Daley, Buffalo forward Wayne Simmonds, Philadelphia forward Chris Stewart and recently retired forward Joel Ward.

"Our mission is to eradicate racism and intolerance in hockey," the group said in a letter. "We will strive to be

a force for positive change not only within our game of hockey but also within society."

After telling his story of longtime coach Bill Peters using racist language toward him in the minors, Aliu consulted with the league office and owners on means of change. The league announced the formation of several councils to address diversity and inclusion, which are expected to have their first meetings next month.

The Hockey Diversity Alliance will be independent of the NHL but hopes to work in tandem with the league.

Kane has been at the forefront of current black players speaking out about racism and racial inequality in the aftermath of the death of George Floyd in Minnesota. He called on

white athletes in hockey and other sports to also speak out, and more than 100 NHL players have posted on social media about the subject.

Some of those players, plus NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman and NHLPA executive director Don Fehr, also took part in a video with the message: "You don't have to look like George Floyd to understand that what happened to him was wrong."

In May, Aliu shared more of his experiences of racism in hockey on The Players' Tribune. Kane shared that post on social media, and now he and Aliu have combined in a new effort.

"In creating our alliance, we are confident we can inspire a new generation of hockey players and fans," the group said.

NBA/VIRUS OUTBREAK

Hornets believe progress halted

Coach unhappy with season's end

By STEVE REED
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Charlotte Hornets won't be among the 22 teams headed to Orlando when the NBA season returns —



Borrego

and that has coach James Borrego concerned about his young, developing team falling behind the rest of the league.

"Is it a disadvantage? Yeah, it could be

a major disadvantage," Borrego said.

The Hornets, who are owned by Michael Jordan, are one of eight teams awaiting guidance from the league on what they'll be allowed to do on their own while other teams resume play at the Disney sports complex on July 31.

The layoff means Hornets players could go more than eight months between playing in meaningful games after the league shut down in March following the coronavirus outbreak.

That's troublesome for Borrego, who felt like his team was playing its best basketball at the end of last season and was eager to reconvene in Orlando and continue that development.

Charlotte finished the season 23-42 and in 10th place in the Eastern Conference, but made steady progress throughout the season and was competing with some of the better teams in the league despite a young roster that includes two rookie starters.

"As an organization, we would like a similar time frame as to what they're getting in Orlando," Borrego said. "The amount of time these teams are spending (together) as a unit, we believe that we should have the same. I believe that would level the playing field a little bit more."



WILFREDO LEE/AP

Hornets forward PJ Washington Jr., right, drives to the basket past Miami Heat forward Solomon Hill.

Hornets general manager Mitch Kupchak agreed with his coach.

Kupchak has been in regular contact with the other seven GMs of teams not in the playoff picture and said they're trying to "brainstorm" about alternative options that would allow them to continue to develop players.

He said the league has expressed a willingness to work with those teams to find a resolution.

"If (the teams in Orlando) are getting five or six weeks together, wouldn't it be great if we could get six weeks with our team in some kind of a formal structure

where they continue to work on their skills?" Kupchak said. "... To have a little more structure would be great."

Kupchak said among the ideas that have been discussed between the GMs is players being allowed to participate in 5-on-5 games, and possibly even scrimmaging against the other teams not invited to Orlando.

He likes that idea if it can be safely done.

"The most important thing is can we get to a place where whatever the teams in Orlando are doing to feel safe that we are to be able to do the same thing?

Nothing lower, because the players would know the standards in Charlotte are not up to snuff with the standards in Orlando," Kupchak said.

Borrego is trying to stay positive through it all — and take advantage of this time.

"I have to find creative ways to push this thing forward and really use it as an opportunity," Borrego said. "This could be a jump start to next season. While those teams that are playing in Orlando, the teams we're chasing, this is an opportunity to catch them and use this as an opportunity to get better. That is our goal."

Empty: Without fans, players will have to create their own fire

FROM BACK PAGE

Michigan State athletic director Bill Beckman said national consultants have advised between 17% to 35% capacity at football stadiums for now, depending on layout. The combination of an economic downturn and skittishness about germ spread might naturally keep crowds smaller, too.

"Sure, it would still be guys competing at their highest level and their hardest, because that's what we do," said Minnesota Wild center Eric Staal, who won the Stanley Cup with Carolina in 2006. "But as far as comparing it to a full building in a Game 7, there's no comparison."

Strength and stamina. Speed and agility. Focus and determination. Experience and preparation. All that factors in to success on the field, court or rink. Adrenaline is also an ingredient, though, and athletes might have to learn how to play with a little less than they've been used to. LeBron James declared he had no interest in playing in front of empty seats before walking that back to being simply disappointed.

"I feel like the fans pick you up," Los Angeles Rams defensive tackle Aaron Donald said. "The fans are what makes the game exciting. The fans would give you that extra juice when you're tired and fatigued. When you make that big play and you hear 80,000 fans going crazy, that pumps you up. If you don't have that in the game, I think that just takes the fun out of it."

The players may need to revert to those school-age days of summer when a complaint about boredom might have prompted this familiar challenge from a parent: When I was in college, we would go and



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Boston Celtics fans try to distract Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James while he shoots free throws on May 7, 2010. Free-throw shooters won't have to worry about fans distracting them when the NBA returns to play because the arenas will be empty.

play like Purdue, and there wasn't a lot of fans in the stadium, and our coach would say, 'Y'all have got to bring your own juice today,' because there's no electricity in the crowd," said Green Bay Packers safety Adrian Amos, who played at Penn State.

Edmonton Oilers defenseman Darrell Nurse was pondering this recently in light of the widely viewed ESPN documentary, "The Last Dance," about Michael Jordan and the 1996-97 Chicago Bulls.

"That's a perfect example, his mindset in a lot of those games of creating your own environment, creating your own fire," Nurse said. "That's a test everyone who is in this situation is going to have to go

through: Having to create your own excitement. There shouldn't be a whole lot that you need to get you going, because you are still playing for a Stanley Cup. Yes, there are no fans there, and you might be in a hub city, but there is an opportunity to win a Stanley Cup."

The recipe for success?

"The team or the teams that get over that the quickest and buy into the format and the fact that it's not changing and we've just got to get on with it," said Winnipeg Jets right wing Blake Wheeler, anticipating the NHL's 24-team postseason tournament that will be held behind closed doors in two yet-to-be-determined cities. The

NBA is planning a 22-team format in Orlando, Fla.

For all the atmospheric change that would come to the games themselves, it's worth noting just how much time teams spend rehearsing with nobody there to root them on.

"We practice every day in an empty grass area and pump in fake crowd noise for away games," Minnesota Vikings quarterback Kirk Cousins said. "Honestly, to go out and just play the game would kind of be refreshing, a breath of fresh air, to just let us know that we don't have to have all the smoke and the fire. We can just play football."

Road games would certainly become easier for Cousins and his blockers and their peers around the NFL, suddenly able to hear all the pre-snap strategy without worrying about a false-start penalty. In Germany, where the Bundesliga soccer season has resumed without fans, players have been able to pick out some positives despite the letdown in energy level.

"When they are loud and they are screaming, you get pushed and you are more emotional and maybe you speak in another way with the referee," said Bayern Munich's Joshua Kimmich. "Now you can be more quiet and calm and speak in a normal way with the referee, and you don't have to shout at him, and he doesn't have to shout back."

A little bit like the days of youth leagues.

"Maybe the focus is more on the game. It's not like a show," Kimmich said.

AP sports writers Rob Harris, Steve Megargee, Dave Skretta and Stephen Whyno contributed to this report.

SPORTS



16-team postseason
MLB proposes expanding playoffs
in latest offer to players » **Page 21**

VIRUS OUTBREAK

'It's going to be hard'

Players ponder empty stadiums

By DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

The roar of the crowd has been such a staple of major sports, such an advantage for the home team, that NFL clubs have been accused at times of artificial amplification. The Atlanta Falcons even admitted to the mischief, leading to a 2015 punishment from the league.

When the coronavirus risk wanes enough to allow the games to begin again, something besides the fans will be missing: The very essence of these events will be gone, too, at least for a while. No cheers, no boos, no chants or whistles. No one behind the backboard trying to distract a free-throw shooter. No kids seeking autographs.

Playing in empty buildings, for these well-paid

performers, will require a significant recalibration.

"You know how much I love to talk to the fans, you know? To be in conversation, to throw the ball to kids," Kansas City Royals catcher Salvador Perez said, hoping a baseball season will come to pass. "It's going to be hard. It's never happened before to me. If that's going to be the best way to start playing, we have to do it, but I don't think I'm going to feel good the first couple of games with no fans."

One NASCAR driver called fan-less sports "weird" and he won't be the last. Even when there is the green light to reopen the gates to the public, near or full-capacity attendance figures are not likely for some time. Temporary caps on the amount of fans who can come in are expected, with the goal of maintaining social distancing.

SEE EMPTY ON PAGE 23



ERIC BATISTA/AP

Kansas City Royals catcher Salvador Perez, bottom, takes a photograph with fans prior to an All-Star exhibition softball game on Jan. 11 at Rod Carew stadium in Panama City, Panama.



Los Angeles Rams defensive end Aaron Donald says NFL games won't be the same without fans in the stadium. "If you don't have that in the game, I think that just takes the fun out of it."

ALEX GALLARDO / AP

Promoter: Fury-Wilder III will occur this year » **Page 20**

